

**St. Alphonsus and St John the Evangelist  
Combined Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Held at St. John January 19, 2012**

**In attendance:** Carol Abraham, Sonja Bigley, Mary Ehr, Chris Knapp, Linda Kron , Jeff Keun, Mo Nicolazzi, Kirk Wagner, Mary Warren, Rich Weber, Adam Yunker, Deacon Stan Lowe, DAS Pat Vos.

**Excused:** John Jacobs      **Absent:** Brian Sekey, Justin Lintas

**Guest:** Bonnie Meyer, Karen Middlecamp

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chris Knapp. Carol Abraham led the council in the opening prayer. Roll call was taken. Chris reported that due to increased job demands, Justin Lintas has submitted his resignation from the Parish Council. Because of the close timing of the upcoming elections, it was decided to hold off on appointing a replacement for Justin's position.

Minutes of the December 16, 2011 meeting approved as edited. An additional change was identified regarding the installation of the security Knox Box equipment. The minutes will be updated to reflect that this equipment has been in place at St. John for some time and that it is being considered for St. Alphonsus.

The council has requested that the minutes and Parish Council Corner be distributed soon after each monthly meeting in order for the information to be available in a more timely manner.

**Parish Director Report:**

**First Reconciliation :** Scheduled for children of both parishes on Saturday, 1-21. Four priests will participate in the event: Fr. Tony, Fr. Bill, Fr. Roger and Fr. Jerry.

**Archbishop Visit:** Archbishop ListECKI will be celebrating mass at St. Alphonsus on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 8:00 a.m.

**Holy Hour for Life:** will be celebrated at an 11:00 a.m. mass later that day. Approximately 90 parishes are participating in this event throughout the Archdiocese.

**Re-keying:** All access doors at St. John are being re-keyed as a security update.

**Finances :** The financial picture has been steadily improving at both parishes over the past few months. This is due to a combination of efforts including reduction in staffing, reduction in spending and steady contributions.

**Interviews:** are being conducted for the Bookkeeper/Secretarial position and planning is underway to get the top candidate in for a final interview. Applicants for the Handyman/Maintenance position are still being processed

**Committee Visit:**

**School :** Principal Karen Middlecamp provided a very comprehensive review of the current activities and programs. There are currently 88 students enrolled representing 49 families. 73 St. Alphonsus families, 7 St. John families and 8 non-members. There are 5 classrooms and 5 full time staff members. Non-parish tuition fees have been adjusted downward to be competitive and more affordable. A copy of the school brochure and graphs representing fund raising activities and school operating costs are attached to the original minutes.

Council members were encouraged to support the Annual Smoker which will be held on Sat. Feb. 11. This is one of the primary fundraisers for the school.

Questions/topics from council members:

- volunteer help from families has helped promote various school activities
- importance of the school web site to communicate with families and parish members
- Facebook page has been created for the school to further enhance communication
- new school video has been created. New student interviews will also be incorporated into the web site
- School Choice program availability in Kenosha county – according to the Archbishop the chances are somewhat small that funds will be available in this area

**Committee Update:** No reports

## Old Business:

**Conceal Carry Signage:** Discussion focused on the pros and cons of posting signage on the church buildings based on the recommendations from the parish insurance carrier. They strongly recommend posting our church buildings. The Catholic Bishops organization recommends that all parishes strongly urge parishioners to not bring weapons into church buildings. Bonnie Mayer, representing the Human Concerns committee, shared that groups recommendations that signage be posted reflecting that the buildings are a place of peace and worship. Deacon Stan indicated that the Employee Handbooks are being revised and will include a statement relating to weapons being prohibited in the buildings. Following extensive discussion, a decision was made to purchase signage that describes our buildings as places of worship and peace (rather than the standard conceal carry signs) and Adam Yunker volunteered to facilitate the purchase of the signs.

**Parish Council Retreat:** Plans are being finalized for the program and format. Since the topic of parish collaboration is so timely to current conditions in the Archdiocese, invitations will be extended to previous council members, key staff and volunteers to attend the retreat so we can benefit from their leadership experience. Lunch will be provided and a signup sheet will be available at the February council meeting so members can volunteer to provide breakfast and snack food.

Prior to the retreat, Deacon Stan will be attending a symposium on Multiple Parish Ministries at Mundelein Seminary. “Parishes and Pastoral Leadership 2020”, a plan to deal with the shortage of priests by the expansion of parish clusters, is being reviewed by priests, deacons and parish directors. Between March and May, parishes in the Archdiocese will have an opportunity to offer their input regarding this plan.

**Council and Committee Meetings:** Discussion focused on benefits of changing the various parish committee meetings to Tuesday instead of Thursday. Consensus was reached to make the changes beginning with the August calendar. Deacon will communicate the changes to the committees.

**Committee Structure:** The role of the committees in the parish is to assist the Parish Director in the work of the parish. The Archdiocese provides guidelines on their web site for the committees. Council liaisons were encouraged to access this information and provide copies to the committees they represent. The web site is: [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org). Future council activities will include development of a flow chart illustrating the parish committees and chain of responsibility as well as a guidebook and org chart of the various groups.

**New Business:**

**Election Plans:** A committee to facilitate the parish elections will be identified by March 15.

Announcements will be placed in the bulletin to communicate the various deadlines:

3/26 Nominations open

4/24 Nominations close

5/1 Discernment of candidates

6/2-6/3 Parish Elections

A copy of the current Parish Council Roster is attached to these minutes indicating the terms for all current members. Open positions will be identified at the February meeting.

**Parish Council Officer Selection Process:** Members were asked to consider changing the process for selecting officers so that all members are eligible. The bylaws require that the officers be chosen by the elected body and may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms in any one office.

**Trustee Selection Process:** Trustees may be appointed by the Parish Director OR individuals can obtain 10 signatures from parish members to gain a slot on the ballot.

**Strategic Planning:** Following receipt of the parish cluster plans from the Archdiocese, the council will consider developing a 5 year plan for our parishes/cluster.

**From the Floor:**

**Cemetery Guidelines:** The Archdiocese is in the process of finalizing guidelines. Final copies of these guidelines will be distributed throughout the Archdiocese in the Fall of 2012.

**Parish Directory** Final revisions are being made. Carol Abraham has volunteered to review and update the History of St. John Parish for inclusion in the directory.

**Confirmation Candidates Mass:** Confirmation candidates will participate in the liturgy at 12:00 mass on Sunday, February 26. Deacon Stan will create a bulletin article inviting parish members to attend this special mass.

Adam Yunker led the members in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Sonja Bigley, Secretary

**Next Parish Council Meeting: February 16, 7:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus**