

These meeting minutes were approved by the Parish Council
at the 22 August meeting.

**Special Meeting
MINUTES
of the SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 1, 2006**

Chairperson **Chuck Gilarski** called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the South Social Hall.

Parish Council members in attendance were: Father Nienhaus, Bill Haas, Jonathan Weber, Jean Kresse, Terry Herrman, Karen Popelka, Sly Upah, Mark Bortle, Lisa Schmidt and Chuck Gilarski. Business Manager Jerry Greving, Parish Council Recording Secretary James Westphal, Jeff Witt, Al Joenson, Board of Education Representative Pat Halbur and Finance Committee Chair, Randy Dalhoff were also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the "Building for our Future Campaign" from Phase I to Phase II.

Jeff Witt reviewed a document he had prepared entitled "Saint Cecilia Project Timeline" ([See addendum #1](#)). Some of the highlights of his presentation were:

1. After initial discussions and Bulletin inserts in the **Fall of 2000** and the **Spring of 2001**, a plan to demolish the Social Hall and Parish Office to make room for a new worship space and turning the existing church into a social gathering center was presented to the parishioners and was rejected in **July and August of 2002**.
2. In **September 2002** a fundraising feasibility study determined that the project scope needed to be reduced and/or phased. There was not much support for demolishing the Social Hall to make room for the Church at that time.
3. In **January of 2003** Bulletin inserts were distributed describing the results of parish meetings, fundraising studies and the need for phasing the construction.
4. In **April of 2003** Parish presentations were made sharing the revised project, Phase 1 to be the Social Hall remodel and Narthex addition and Phase 2 to be the replacement of the church.
5. In **May of 2003** the Preliminary Design of the entire project was presented to and accepted by both the Archdiocese and the Parish Council.
6. In the **Fall of 2003** the Fundraising Campaign was completed. \$3.2 Million dollars was pledged. The campaign booklet "Building For Our Future" describes the phasing plan. Fundraising bulletin insert of **November 16, 2003** includes discussion of phasing **depending on the pledges received**, Archdiocesan loan capabilities and the ability of the parish to retire debt.
7. In **January of 2004** the Parish Council gave approval to present financing plans to the Archdiocese based on Phase 1 (Narthex) construction in 2005 and Phase 2 (Church) construction in 2008 or 2009. Bulletin insert includes this information and **describes the need for an additional fundraising campaign in the future**.

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Jeff concluded his presentation by approximating the cost of construction for a new church to be somewhere around \$5 to 6 Million dollars. It was pointed out also that these costs did not include furnishings such as altar and pews or artwork or statuary. **Al Joenson** also mentioned that construction costs could go up 16 to 17% a year not to mention utility bill increases, etc.

Jeff suggested that due to material price hikes, material shortages and fuel prices, the next step should be a completely new estimate of costs for church construction. ([See addendum #2](#)) Status of the entire building project as of July 22, 2006.

Motion by **Jean Kresse**, supported by **Mark Bortle**, that the Parish Council give authority to the Building Committee to get a professional cost estimate for Phase 2 (the construction of a new church). This estimate should include dates and projected inflationary costs if construction does not take place in the near future. The Building Committee is also charged with getting estimates for costs other than building costs i.e. furnishings, altar, baptismal fonts, etc. **Motion Carried!**

Chairman **Chuck Gilarski** asked for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc Phase II committee to start a dialogue on where and how far to go next. **Chuck Gilarski, Jean Kresse** and **Al Joenson** volunteered to serve on this committee.

Bill Haas suggested a letter be sent to every parishioner to tell them where we are, where we are headed and what has been done to get us there. It should include Father Nienhaus' view of the future eventually only one priest in Ames. **Bill Haas** and **Terry Herrman** will start the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

James Westphal, Recording Secretary