

These meeting minutes were approved  
at the March 27 meeting.

**Minutes Of The  
SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
Tuesday February 27, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonathan Weber, Mark Bortle, Karen Popelka, Chuck Gilarski, Sly Upah, Lisa Underhill Schmidt, Bill Haas, Terry Herrman, Father Nienhaus and Jean Kresse.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** LouAnn Vulgamott

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Director of Liturgy and Music Bob Hauser, Youth Minister Joe Lawlor, Business Manager Jerry Greving, Chairman of the Finance Committee Randy Dalhoff, Board of Education Representative Larry Gross, Recording Secretary Jim Westphal, School Principal Duane Siepker, Board of Education President Todd Clancy, Teacher Lori Van Fleet, Finance Committee Member Joel Thilges.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman **Chuck Gilarski** called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. **PRAYER:** **Sly Upah** led the group in prayer and meditation from the Prayer Services for Parish Council book.
3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** **MOTION** by **Jean Kresse**, supported by **Terry Herrman** to accept the Minutes of the January Meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**
4. **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Youth Ministry Report – Joe Lawlor** reported on the Minutes in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #1](#)).  
Joe said:

- The group is planning to build a tomb scene on March 18<sup>th</sup>, similar to what was done with the Manger scene during Christmas.
- The February 25<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross was cancelled due to the winter storm.
- Still having difficulty with scheduling conflicts on Sundays with Athletic banquets etc. Joe is thinking of talking to the Ames Board of Education about the problem.

**Jean Kresse** said that it was the Booster Clubs that arranged banquets and not the schools themselves. She suggested that Wednesday nights be used for Religious Education, as that is what has always been the traditional night for that activity. There followed a rather lengthy discussion on scheduling conflicts.

**Business Manager's Report- Jerry Greving** reviewed his report that is contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #2](#)).

He also said:

- As Mass attendance was down this week due to the Winter storm, the collection was about \$10,000.00 less than usual.
- When questioned about the cost of snow removal, Jerry said it was costing about \$300.00 for each inch of snow removed.
- Some of the outside sensors were affected by the storm and the Parish Center was very cool today but the problem has been resolved.
- He and the staff are working on job descriptions.
- He wished to thank Randy Dalhoff for work he has performed on the ACH system and the web site.
- Overall budget will be to the Parish Council in April.

**Board of Education – Larry Gross** reviewed his report contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #3](#)).  
Larry also mentioned that the planned lock-in was cut short due to the winter storm.

**Spiritual Growth & Liturgy – Bob Hauser** handed out the Minutes of the Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee ([See addendum #4](#)) and reviewed the points contained therein.

Bob pointed out:

These meeting minutes were approved  
at the March 27 meeting.

- There will be a third Mass on Easter Sunday at 7:00 am to help relieve the expected overcrowded attendance.
- Cyndi Volcko is trying to organize a trip to the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec. Pope Benedict is expected to be there.
- A procession is being planned from the Church to Inis Grove Park for the Corpus Christi Sunday celebration.

**Parish Community Life – Jean Kresse** reviewed the report that is contained in the Parish Council packet (*See addendum #5*).

## **5. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Open Forum for the See Committee:**

**Bill Haas** handed out a report of the Open Forum questions and answers (*See addendum #6*).

There followed a very lengthy discussion. Some of the discussion revolved around:

- An e-mail to Council Members was read by **Sly Upah** concerning financial concerns in year 3 and beyond."
- **Father Nienhaus** said we are only approving expansion for the year 2008.
- **Bill Haas** said we need to think about year 3 now.
- **Terry Herrman** said that the recommendation was left open ended on purpose. The Board of Education should have the power to study the problem without being "micro-managed" by the Parish Council although the Council should be kept aware of decisions made by the Board.
- **Father Nienhaus** said we could expand the school programs without adding any more rooms.
- **Karen Popelka** said the future of the Church is in the school-we need to figure on their needs.
- **Joel Thilges** pointed out that the Finance Committee must approve any funding on an annual basis regardless of any other decisions made.
- **Jean Kresse** suggested we look at hiring a design professional to plan for any possible expansions.
- **Bill Haas** said **Jeff Witt** is willing to work with the Building Committee on integrated site plans.
- **Father Nienhaus** said the Building Committee has all it can handle now in planning the new Chapel space. He also said the Bishop wants a new Church.
- **Chuck Gilarski** asked if maybe we need to address this issue on a yearly basis.
- **Bill Haas** said he thought we need to address it now-as soon as possible!
- **Duane Sieper** pointed out that all the Board of Education and School Staff want to do at the present time is to maximize the space already existing i.e. the art and music rooms which are only used at the present time once a week.
- **Chuck Gilarski** ordered the discussion to be tabled and added the Old Business agenda at next month's meeting.

**MOTION** by **Terry Herrman**, supported by **Karen Popelka** to accept the recommendations of the SEE Committee as stated in their Final Report. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### **A. Phase II Fundraising**

**Chuck Gilarski** said he met with two professional fund raising organizations, the CSS Company and the Cosgriff Company. After listening to presentations from each company it was decided to go with the Cosgriff Company and pay them \$8,895.00 for a Feasibility Study. They are looking at an early September start.

**MOTION** by **Mark Bortle**, supported by **Jonathan Weber** to hire the Cosgriff Company and fund a \$9,000.00 Feasibility Study. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS: No New Business**

These meeting minutes were approved  
at the March 27 meeting.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Social Concerns Committee** – **Chuck Gilarski** reported that the Minutes of the last Committee meeting are contained in the Parish Council packet (*See addendum #7*). He highlighted the fact that Sue Stanton was hoping to bring in a Byzantine priest but if he can't make it she is planning to hold some interfaith meetings with groups of varying faiths so questions can be shared.

**Sanctity of Life** – **Mark Bortle** said that a report is contained in the Parish Council packet. (*See addendum #8*). He also said that a report was received stating that the supplier of 70% of all Poinsettias and Easter Lilies for churches is a supporter of Planned Parenthood.

**Family Life Committee**- **Terry Herrman** reviewed the points contained in the report contained within the Parish Council packet (*See addendum #9*).

**Finance and Administration** – **Randy Dalhoff** said a report was contained in the Parish Council packet (*See addendum #10*). There followed a discussion on tuition assistance and the procedures associated with it.

**Good Shepherd** – No Report

**Stewardship Committee** – **Bill Haas** reported 6 people attended the Committee meeting in January and 6 again in February. The Committee meets again this Thursday.

**Deanery** – **Sly Upah** reported that Father Ev is looking for a replacement for the Catholic Charities position in the Deanery. The Minutes of the Deanery meeting are included in the packet (*See addendum #11*). Sly also circulated a letter from Governor Culver regarding his stance on Stem Cell research. (*See addendum #12*).

**Facilities** – **Jonathan Weber** reported that the lights have been installed outside the building. He also reported that snow removal has cost us about \$750.00 per storm.

**Jerry Greving** reported that due to security and maintenance needs an adult presence is necessary for all rooms rented within the facility.

**Long Range Building Committee** – No report.

## 8. OBSERVATIONS/EVALUATION/FEEDBACK – **Chuck Gilarski** wished to thank **Bill Haas** and **Terry Herrman** for the efforts they put in with the SEE Committee studies.

### 1. PASTORAL COMMENTS – **Father Nienhaus** said that all the priests of the Deanery would have an opportunity to address the Archbishop on needs of the church in Dubuque. He asked everyone present to state their ideas of what the greatest needs of the church are. Comments included:

- Need for more small faith groups,
- Priest shortage,
- Keeping youth involved beyond Confirmation,
- More “workers in the field” in ministries especially women (women’s ordination?),
- Adult education,
- Clustering not working (affected parishioners going to Protestant churches),
- Family participation,
- Keeping older youths interested,
- Vocations,
- Adult formation.

### 10. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

*The next regular meeting will be 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 27th in the Social Hall.*

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Westphal**, Recording Secretary