

These meeting minutes were approved by the Parish Council
at the October 23 meeting.

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
in the Social Hall
Tuesday September 25, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Bortle, Chuck Gilarski, Jon Weber, Janine Greenwood, LouAnn Vulgamott, Bill Haas, Mark Imerman, Jacek Koziel, Pat Halbur and Father Nienhaus.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Popelka

OTHERS PRESENT: Business Manager Jerry Greving, Board of Education Representative Todd Clancy, Director of Music and Liturgy Bob Hauser, Recording Secretary Jim Westphal, Director of Religious Education John Hayes, Youth Minister Anna Steele, Chairman of the Finance Committee Randy Dalhoff, Karen Kerns, Board of Education members: Larry Gross, Tim Simodynes, Rick Hoening, Chair of the Building Committee Jeff Witt, and Vice Chair of the Board of Education Kathy Wipf.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman **Chuck Gilarski** opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.
2. **PRAYER:** **Randy Dalhoff** led the group in prayer from "Prayer Services for Parish Councils".

Chairman **Chuck Gilarski** welcomed **Jacek Koziel** as a new member of the Parish Council. Council member **Sly Upah** had requested to leave the council position for personal reasons. Jacek, being the next highest vote getter in the last election was asked to fill the remaining two years of Sly's position.

3. **DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:** **Karen Kerns** presented her ideas for a new position of Development Director for the Parish. Her main point emphasized the "Parish of Saint Cecilia's" rather than individualized interests such as Church, School and separate interest groups.

Financing for this position will be split between the School and Parish. The position is for one year with a possible renewal at the end of one year.

After her presentation the Council made the following motion: **MOTION** by **Mark Imerman**, supported by **Pat Halbur** that the Parish Office in cooperation with the Board of Education employ a Director of Development and communication specialist in preparation for the coming developmental campaign. **MOTION CARRIED Unanimously.**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

MOTION by **Pat Halbur**, supported by **Mark Imerman** that the Minutes be accepted. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

5. **STAFF REPORTS:**

Spiritual Growth & Liturgy – No report.

Parish Community Life – **Janine Greenwood** said that a report is contained within the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #1](#)). She also handed out a copy of the minutes of the last Directory meeting ([See addendum #2](#)).

Youth Ministry Report – **Jon Weber** said there is a report in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #3](#)).

Business Manager's Report- Jerry Greving said a report was in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #4](#)). He also reported that we have not heard back from the Archdiocese yet. He said pledges for the Building Fund end in December of 2008.

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Board of Education – Todd Clancy said his report was contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #4a](#)). He also reported that in a Special Session, the Board of Education approved the hiring of Karen Kerns as Development Director and the exact wording of the motion would be e-mailed to the Recording Secretary later. Todd also asked that we keep the family of Chris Sillman in our prayers. Chris passed away suddenly this week.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. CornFest - Chuck Gilarski reported that the date for CornFest 2008 would be August 24th which occurs the week before Labor Day.

B. Bill Haas reported on his meeting with a group headed by William Diesslin on the Phase 2 Building Campaign ([See addendum #5](#)).

This led to a discussion on the importance and the need for a bigger Church building.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Effective Leadership - Bill Haas had asked Council members to be thinking about how the Council could be more effective in providing parish leadership. Ideas expressed by the Council members included the following:

- ❖ Focus on unity (We are one parish).
- ❖ Work on building of consensus.
- ❖ Respond to guidance from the Development Director.
- ❖ All members must support decisions of the Council even if they personally disagree.
- ❖ More prayer to the Holy Spirit for intervention and guidance.
- ❖ Become better educated in our faith.
- ❖ Revisit the Parish Council Constitution and By-Laws and the Parish Mission Statement (Are we the same church we were 20 years ago?)

Bill suggested the Council commit to study and reflection based on “*Revisioning the Parish Council A Workbook*” by Mary Ann Gubish, Susan Jenny and Arlene McGannon (approximately \$20.00 per copy). The Council asked to have a chance to see the book before committing. Bill agreed to circulate a copy of the book before the next meeting (*Please see [addendum #5a](#) for the Table of Contents*).

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vocations – Jacek Koziel reported having attended the Vocations Committee meeting. He said there were about 8 people in attendance. Cyndi Volcko was elected Committee Chairperson. Jacek said they shared ideas on what the committee should be doing to encourage young people to consider entering the clergy and religious life. There were suggestions for presentations to younger parishioners on religious life and the benefits thereof.

In a related matter it was announced that **Ron Smith** would be ordained a Deacon at Saint Raphael’s Church in Dubuque on Saturday, October 20th. His first assistance at Mass will be the first week in November at Saint Cecilia’s. Each Mass will be followed by a reception for Ron in the Social Hall.

Stewardship Committee – Bill Haas had included a brochure on “Christian Stewardship” in the Parish Council packet along with his written report ([See addendum #6](#)). He said Father Nienhaus is planning to focus on stewardship and the project for Iraqi women and children refugees in Jordan in November homilies. This would be coordinated with distribution of additional information on stewardship in the bulletin and in a bulletin insert entitled “*Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*”.

Good Shepherd – LouAnn Vulgamott handed out a copy of the Good Shepherd Newsletter ([See addendum #7](#)). She said that Good Shepherd has formed a Prayer group which meets with Deacon John and that she has placed the Parish Council on the prayer list for help and guidance in their decision making.

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Deanery – A report is contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #8](#)). **Bill Haas** reported that Steve Marley has agreed to be the alternate to serve on the Deanery Committee.

Facilities – **Jon Weber** said they have been having trouble with the dividing doors in the school and they are trying to determine whether to spend a lot of money on replacements or none at all.

Social Concerns Committee – **Chuck Gilarski** said a report is contained in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #9](#)) Chuck also commented again on the Iraqi Women’s Refuge effort in Jordan. Some 3 to 400,000 Iraqis have been displaced and can never return to their home country.

Sanctity of Life – **Janine Greenwood** noted that a report was in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #10](#)). She also encouraged attending the Alveda King presentation.

Family Life Committee – **Pat Halbur** said a report is contained in the Parish Council packet. ([See addendum#11](#)).

Finance and Administration – **Randy Dalhoff** said a report is in the Parish Council packet ([See addendum #12](#)).

9. OBSERVATIONS/EVALUATION/FEEDBACK

10. PASTORAL COMMENTS - **Father Nienhaus** said that things are still going fairly well. School has started and is going smoothly. He noted that Chris Sillman’s visitation will be in the Narthex and he encourages all parishioners to stop and visit with the family. They need the Parish’s support. The funeral is scheduled for Saturday morning.

11. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned with the Our Father.

The next regular meeting will be 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 23rd in the Social Hall.

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