

**Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes September 19, 2006**

Attendees: Paula McLaughlin, Teresa Clark, Father Danny, Sidney Vand, Mark Fair, and Sonia Schuetze.

Guest: Chris Downey

Meeting began at 7:30 pm in P1.

Opening:

Teresa started the meeting with prayers from when we pray...Meditation on the Lord's Prayer by Eugene Laverdiere.

Parish Festival Booth Sponsorship:

The group decided to sponsor the Live Auction (\$50) and the Prize booth (\$100) for the festival with each non-clergy member contributing \$25.

Action Item:

Please leave your donation of \$25 in the parish office and make the check out to SVDP and note 'Pastoral Council booth sponsor' in the memo line.

Vision Statement:

We are currently at step 3 of the 'writing the vision.' The remaining areas that were worked on are Advocacy (Sidney, Pat & Henry), Education (Mark, Teresa & Sidney), and Stewardship (Paula & Sonia). The next step is to input all of the objectives into one document and have the Council evaluate before moving forward.

Action Item: Mark will put the inputs received from each group (Mark, Sidney, Sonia) into one base document and will send out to Council for review. Once the document is sent out, Mark will coordinate a first meeting to move forward on 'writing the vision.' Tentatively, the thought is to meet on a Monday (if it is acceptable for all) without Fr. Danny.

Parish Tithe:

At the last meeting, the PC members were asked to nominate two charities that they would like considered for the parish tithe (1% of the Sunday collection=>roughly \$13000 annually). The following inputs were provided:

Pat (via e-mail) – expressed that there are needs within the parish and he would like to see us continue to set this money aside and use the money for adult education events. There was a consensus that adult education as well as other parish activities could use more funding at times but these items should be planned and included in the parish budget. The group decided that the parish tithe should go to an outside organization needing our assistance.

Henry (via e-mail) – SafePlace and Caritas (provides basic needs in times of crisis)

Sonia – SafePlace and Arc (provide services & support for people with disabilities & their families)

Mark – Hill Country Ministries and providing computer or needed item(s) in lieu of money (for example to a women’s shelter)

Teresa – Caritas and Christopher House

Paula – Eagle’s Wing Retreat Center and UT doctor’s care for pregnant girls—they are currently trying to buy a sonogram machine.

Sidney – Children’s Home of Austin (provides transition care for children going to foster homes) and Doctor’s without borders

Fr. Danny – SafePlace and Habitat for Humanity

(Chris – Mobile Loaves & Fishes)

There was also a discussion about buying items—whether it is care packets, food items or other things in lieu of donating money. Consideration of who will provide the manpower to do the buying or putting packet together (possibly our youth groups?) exists. Also, once the charity is chosen, there should be some research done to find out how much administration fee is spent by this organization as well as more detailed information about this organization. Another consideration was should we go out of the parish more i.e. a place that the parish does not regularly fund (Hill Country, Society of SVdP, etc.)

The agreement is to fund one charity each quarter.

Action Item:

Each member to provide a ranking (1 to 4) of the nominated charities (list will be sent out with the draft minutes) when providing approval of the PC Council minutes for this meeting.

Parish Web site:

There was a suggestion that our current parish web site could be improved. There was a discussion of keeping the information on the web site current (this would affect all who have information on the web site) if we are going to seek the time and energy to change or improve our web site. There was a consensus to invite the web masters who have been working on our site so that we could get more information about how the site is being updated and how much time is currently being dedicated to maintain this site.

Action Item:

Determine a time to invite the webmasters to a Pastoral Council meeting—possibly the October meeting. Paula will evaluate based on other agenda items.

Ministry and Organization Guidelines:

After final review and incorporation of comments received from Fr. Danny, the document was officially approved!

One change that was incorporated was moving the EIM required question to be answered by the Pastoral Council instead of the ministry lead. The diocese specifies the requirements for EIM which our parish follows. Therefore, the determination of whether members should be EIM certified should be made at the parish level – Pastoral Council. The other changes were correction for grammar. Also, noting that revisions may be made at any time and also revising and updating as necessary the Ministries and Organization chart in the January/February time frame so that the ministries directory can reflect the organization chart.

Action Item: Sonia to provide copies to the Pastoral Council members, Stewardship Council, Finance Council and put a binder in the front office dedicated to the Ministry and Organization Guidelines and associated forms. These guidelines and forms will also be posted on the web site.

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Mark.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held Tuesday October 17th at 7:30pm.

Respectively submitted by
Sonia Schuetze