

St Mary – Holy Cross Parish Finance Council

Minutes of Meeting – September 15, 2009

Present: Ed Claussen, Michael Cruise, Susan Genalo, Steve Panyan, Keith Muehlenthaler, Peter Relyea (Parish Bookkeeper) and Fr. Krettek

Absent: Jon Finnegan, Lisa Schoening

Opening

Meeting was opened with an Our Father

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Susan Genalo motioned to approve, Steve Panyan seconded.
Minutes from the August meeting were approved 4-0.

Monthly Budget

There were no major issues with the August budget report and financial statements. One question was asked about \$1,144.80 in building maintenance and it was stated that it was for the A/C repair done.

Debt Elimination Campaign

Issues and topics of discussion on the debt elimination campaign:

- A request was made in the August meeting of the possibility of having an outside audit of the previous debt campaign to provide transparency to the parish of what happened with the original campaign that left us with a large remaining debt.
 - Names of firms were provided by the diocese but the scope of the audit must be determined before contacting the vendors for bids. This will be an agenda item for the October meeting
- Fact finding has been completed and town hall meetings have been scheduled. The letter to the parish will also be sent out in the next few weeks. The reaction to the letter and the town hall meetings will be discussed in the October meeting.

Other Business:

The committee has discussed posting a couple of items on the parish website to continue to provide an opportunity for parishioners to be informed about what the council is discussing and for the council to demonstrate our commitment to conduct business in an open and transparent manner. Among the items mentioned were: 1) the monthly meeting minutes and 2) the monthly budget reports. This will be discussed further in the October meeting and a vote will be taken to approved these suggestions.

Peter Relyea will submit the annual financial report to Joseph Consulting for their input before submitting it to the diocese. Results from that review will be given in the October meeting.

Discussions were started about what is contained in the development fund cash balance. It was thought that \$6,000 of this balance was intended for tuck pointing that needs to be done at Holy Cross Church. Further investigation of the balance of this account will be done. We also should ask the building and grounds committee for their recommendations for major maintenance projects during the current fiscal year.

A need for additional money counters after mass was mentioned. Currently there are a couple of teams that may present too close of a relationship that would not meet the diocesan rule for internal controls for cash handling. More people are will be asked to volunteer for this duty so that teams can be properly created. It was mentioned that this may create some friction and cause current people to resign from this duty but the finance council agreed that it needs to be done and hoped to minimize this effect. A ministry fair was mentioned as a means to solicit more volunteers for this and all other church duties.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM

Adjournment

Fr. Krettek closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting minutes prepared by Mike Cruise