

**St. Edwards Parish Council Meeting**  
**April 11, 2013 Minutes**

**Present:** Martie McMahon, Teresa Donovan, Felicity Furber, Michael Barg, Molly Mitch, Sherrie Schroeder, Dan Shidla, Larry Poston, Ellen Berkowitz, Barry Weber. Judy Foster was in attendance as a guest.

**Absent:** Fr. Brian, Carly Schirber, Jennifer Zupke, Dan Kinsella

We began with a discussion about the Parish Assessment & Renewal (PAR) process – what is working and what do we need to adjust? Barry Weber noted that there has been more interaction amongst the six commissions. There is still a need for co-chairs for some of the commissions but we cannot rush this process. The Parish Council (PC) will continue to be linked to the commissions and provide whatever help we can. Overall, things seem to be going well with the commissions and the leadership night meetings.

Leadership Night/PC meetings will move to back to the traditional third Tuesday of the month evening meeting time for the May and June gatherings. The next Leadership Night will be Tuesday, May 21.

It was noted that PAR still seems to be a bit of a mystery to some parishioners. Barry will put together an announcement to be read at all masses the weekend of April 20 and 21. The message will update parishioners on the PAR process – what we're working on and future plans. This message will also incorporate a request to the parishioners to consider becoming a member of the PC. We need a replacement for Beth Duffy (who resigned from the council) and Teresa Donovan who will be ending her two year term as an at large member. People will be assigned to do all of the announcements that weekend.

The next informational update from the pulpit will be the weekend of June 1 and 2. The topic for that update is yet to be determined.

We had a discussion about PC membership and the process for bringing on new members. In addition to the announcement mentioned above, we will have cards available in the pews for folks

to nominate people for the two open positions on the PC. We will also look to the commissions to

nominate folks from their groups.

Carly Schirber and Ellen Berkowitz will stay on the council as the youth representatives. Felicity Furber agreed to serve another year on the council.

Barry Weber provided an update on parish finances. Envelope and plate collections for the month of March were \$144,800 (including Easter of \$48,900) and the year to date total is \$1,096,500. This is \$51,600 less than last year and \$57,300 less than budget. The March 2013 financials were not completed at the time of the meeting. The Finance Council (FC) will be starting the budgeting process next week. Their tentative goal is to have a preliminary budget ready for review by leadership in by mid-May with completion by the end of June. A final budget

will be published parish-wide by mid to late August. The FC will work with the PC and the Stewardship Committee during the budgeting process.

Commission report summaries were given. For details on these please see the Leadership Night

Notes. Going forward, the PC representatives on the various commissions will only bring forward

to the PC meetings those items that need to be discussed at the PC level.

The Administration Commission is working to establish a Human Resources Committee to serve as a resource to Fr. Brian, Sherrie Schroeder and the entire staff.

An issue was raised as to the substance of PC meetings lately as it seems we're just listening as opposed to engaging in discussions related to decision making, priorities etc. This is temporary – activities will increase starting with the upcoming budgeting /planning cycle.

A question was raised as to the PC's role within the PAR process. Barry handed out a sheet entitled "The Role of the Parish Council" for our review and later discussion.

Questions were then raised regarding how the PAR process was used in recent new hires. Barry Weber confirmed it was not. This was the Pastor's decision. A discussion then ensued -

- A number of PC members noted they were being questioned by parishioners as to why it appeared the PAR process was not followed.
  - A question was raised on why consultants were hired if we were not going to follow their recommendations.
  - Sherrie Schroeder noted that the hiring process began last fall before PAR was in place. She encouraged everyone to see Fr. Brian if they have questions.
  - Others expressed frustration with issues of trust and transparency. It was noted that all of us as leaders need to focus on regaining trust.
- Teresa Donovan closed the meeting with a prayer.