

Saint Rita Parish Council

Meeting Minutes: July 16, 2007

Members in Attendance:

Terry Casey	Felita Asteinza,	Lynn Waddell ,	Chris Flow Jr.,
Jim Kelly,	Father Tom Collins,	Kitty Boe,	Ellen O'Connell,
Joe Colello,	Dave Casey,	Steve Haemmerle,	Patrick McCarthy,
Lisa Burns			

Meeting was opened at 6:30pm with a review of the meeting agenda by Jim Kelly.

Opening Prayer: Father Tom led the group in a guiding prayer.

Update of Action Items from previous meeting:

Jim Kelly began group discussion with review of Parish Goals and objectives:

Introduction of Eucharistic Adoration - 12 hours per month. Small group has been meeting and discussing/planning how to set up a new program at our church.

New FIAT program to be established: small groups of 6-8 people get together to study scriptures. It is a three year program. Current stage involves identifying small group leaders who will hold meetings at different homes. Initially, the program will start off with two faith prayer groups beginning of Lent 2008. Each year, the goal will be to add additional groups. Currently, Lynn and Ellen are working on scheduling.

St Rita's Welcoming Committee: First welcome meeting for new members held recently at the Rectory; Wonderful reception to welcome new parish members; Terry also mentioned that approximately 24 new families have registered since Christmas 2006.

Parish directory due in August 2007: A later publication date than originally estimated; Later date allows the new directory to include 25th Anniversary celebration and Confirmation pictures of 2007.

St Rita Parish website up and running; over 10,000 hits.

Lynn Waddell provided a synopsis of St. Rita parish 25th Jubilee events:

1. Friday Dinner event (May 18th) at the Wish's Food and entertainment was enjoyed by all

2. Parish Picnic (May 20th) at Eden State Park
Men's club did a wonderful job cooking plenty of food; fun and games enjoyed by young and old
3. Feast Day Celebration (May 22nd) at Mary Star of the Sea room
Many parish members were able to attend; Mary Star of the Sea room was filled to capacity.

New Business

Family Life Center – Architect Contract/Budget Estimates

Approval from COE for land; Change in permit; in compliance for state wetlands guidelines.

Matt Savoie, member of St. Rita's and architect for the church, request for contract; Father Tom submitted contract submitted to Diocese for approval.

Capital Campaign in Spring 2008; If hire Matt Savoie at this time – 3D model would be available for spring campaign.

Retainer fee due at this time for architect: \$39,000.

Total fee includes the design of the new Family Life Center building as well as Matt working as project manager. Current plan includes Gym, connector wing, Family Life Center and renovated kitchen.

Joe asked if other bids, other than Savoie Architects, should be asked for a bid, for comparison pricing. Patrick stated in reviewing bid that it seems in correct pricing range for a Family Life Center. Matt Savoie is an active parish member. Steve suggested asking diocese for comparison pricing. Members discussed the superior quality and interest that a parish member, like Matt, puts into his work rather than hiring an outsider.

After discussion, a vote was taken. Result of vote: approval of Matt Savoie for architect for the Family Life Center.

Father Tom suggested a building committee will need to be established to work with Matt on the needs for the Family Life Center. Patrick, Steve and Jim volunteered to work on committee. Parish will be asked for volunteers as well from different age group and organization areas. The council then discussed the current plan, how accurate it is vs. the current needs of growing/changing parish. Steve suggested the actual room sizes should be verified before Matt designs the building. Father Tom discussed vision for future of Family Life Center: a building that would provide a place for the youth of St. Rita's to grow as a catholic community.

It was decided that by middle of August, a building committee needs to be formed. Patrick and others going to work on coming up with a list of needs and design specs. By end of September, have a list to give Matt.

Family Life Center – Capital Campaign

Father Tom presented current financial status of the building fund.

Discussion about current balance, current liabilities, and future liabilities of our parish.

Update on Parish Finances by Patrick McCarthy

Finance committee met four times over the last month. Analyzed budgets of years past and new budget. Church budget for this physical year (July 07 – June 08) is \$518,942,62 which is 2.3% higher than last year. It was suggested that St. Rita Parish members need to know that continued contributions help parish to meet expenditures and help provide (and pay for) current new programs. Without support, programs would be hard to keep up and running.

Church Sound and AC system by Jim Kelly

Systems were checked out and are working at capacity.

Tridentine Mass by Father Tom

Father Tom read part of Article Five from Pope Benedicts' letter about the Tridentine Mass. The letter explains how the Mass can take place on working days and on Sunday's or for special circumstances. The Priest must be qualified (be trained about the Tridentine Mass) to perform the mass. Father Tom is not qualified at this time to do so. Pope Benedict stated that Tridentine masses would be able to start as of September 14, 2007. To have the Tridentine mass at St. Rita's, Father Tom and altar boys (no altar girls allowed) would have to be trained – this is a long process that involves more than just learning the Latin verse.

Currently, St. Rita's has three Sunday masses. If a third of parish families asked to have the Tridentine Mass said weekly at St. Rita's, Father Tom would be willing to start the training process. Those who want the mass will need to write Father Tom a letter or email requesting the mass. No group form of request would be accepted. Another option would be to offer a weekly mass, the Eucharistic Prayer, in Latin. Some council members reflected about the Tridentine Mass and what it entails. The parish will have a Wednesday night discussion about Pope Benedict's letter. Tentative date is Wednesday, August 1st.

Next meeting will be September 17th, 2007 at 6:30pm