

St. Teresa's Parish Council Minutes 9-27-06

Present: Ed Buekers, Barb Burke, Sheila Ernst, Ralph Handley, Cindy Hayes for Maria, Elmer Ottney, Holly Parzych, Jen Reichenberg, Jim Schneider, Sister Ruth Warejko, and Msgr. Williamson. Absent: Pat Buczek and Richard Forrestel.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Barbara Burke. The Opening Prayer was led by Msgr. Williamson.

Minutes of the June 28, 2006 meeting were corrected and approved. Sister Ruth pointed out that Msgr. Williamson alone composes the Prayers of the Faithful.

Old Business: Parish Picnic Wrap Up: The name tags were very successful and assisted in learning one another's names. Everyone had a good time. Msgr. Williamson suggested using a different musical group next year. Suggestions were made to assign categories of food alphabetically to round out the menu. Perhaps some salads will be purchased next year. Families participated in the games. Pictures of the picnic are on our website. Approximately 225 attended.

Welcoming Committee Advertisement: Has been renamed **Interest Survey Advertisement:** Jen Reichenberg will confer with Msgr. Williamson concerning a survey to identify parishioners' interests.

New Business: Constitution and By-Laws: Most Parish Councils consist of elected members who then elect their officers. Since our Council consists of volunteers representing various active groups and geographical areas of the Parish, it would be appropriate to allow members to volunteer for the open positions.

Our 2006-2007 Officers consist of:

President: Barb Burke

Vice Pres.: _____

Secretary: _____

This item is tabled until the October meeting to give members time for reflection.

Cluster Update: Msgr. Williamson reported that the Cluster Groups may be reactivated to work on refining their recommendations. Groups working in the City seem to be making better progress than suburban and rural groups. Hard decisions are being avoided. Beginning in January 2007, St. Teresa's will schedule two Sunday masses. The proposed times are 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

Community Involvement Committee: Barb Burke circulated an article copied from the Buffalo Diocese Website discussing a new committee formed as a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Committee. The purpose of the article

is to encourage parishes throughout the Diocese to look at our neighborhoods to see how we can help those people living around us.

Possible Topics of Discussion this Fall:

- A. Parish Newsletter – Would require an editor; may be quarterly. Good way to highlight activities in our parish. Sheila Ernst and Ralph Handley expressed an interest.
- B. Building and Grounds – Structural repairs, septic tanks and electrical system were discussed. Elmer Ottney, Jim Schneider and Ed Buekers expressed an interest.

Communications:

Holly -- Women's Guild – Country Craft Show this Saturday.

Jen -- National Respect Life Weekend – Prayer Chain on Niagara Falls Blvd. this weekend. Remember to register to vote.

Sister Ruth – Oct. 1 Meeting with parents of Confirmation candidates. Request prayers to show support.

Sheila -- Salt & Light will distribute Thanksgiving cards and flowers to shut-ins on Msgr.'s communion list.

Msgr. Williamson – Instruction for Catholicism will be offered this fall. There will be a meeting of the Finance Committee on Sept. 28, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.