

**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Council**

**August 10, 2009**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present: Bill Bergan, Roman Lynch, Patrick Clem, Dave Dirks, Alan Lynch, Fr. Jon Seda, Jessica Rosenhamer, Don Alexander, Jerry Peltier, John Klaus, Diane Lyon**

**Absent: Doug Ulazek, Elise Mullen, Kimberley Taylor, Shannon Schroeder**

**7:00 pm Call to order by Bill Bergan**

**7:01 pm Prayer – John Klaus**

**7:06 pm Approval of Agenda – Bill Bergan**

**7:07 pm Approval of June Minutes – Bill Bergan**

**7:10 pm Welcoming remarks from Father Jon Seda**

Fr Jon mentioned his happiness to return to St Thomas! In looking forward 3-5 years our parish needs to keep in mind that there continues to be a shortage of priests and we need to be prepared that some time in the future we may be operating with one priest. Fr Jon is enjoying his transition to St. Thomas and the wonderful staff that he is working with.

**7:20 pm Old Business**

Bill mentioned the Discerning Our Giftedness program and that all of Parish Council is encouraged to consider attending.

Reviewed newly updated Personnel Handbook – It was 6-7 years since the last formal update of this handbook and Parish Council reviewed the updates to the document. There was some discussion that there should be a formal legal review of the Handbook. Fr. Jon recommended that we have the human resources department within the diocese review the document for input and suggestions.

Status of “Advocate for Persons with Special Needs/Disabilities” (PFL)- Alan Lynch reported that this was reviewed by PFL and discussed some areas of improvement within our parish to make it more friendly for Special Needs/Disabilities. They will appoint a chairperson and get a committee working on this.

**7:30 pm Commission Reports -on future plans/events**

Charity Justice Peace -CJP—John Klaus- Next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Some discussion about the Pope’s visit to living history farms and what involvement St. Thomas will have.

Parish Family Life -PFL—Alan Lynch - No meeting

Worship and Spiritual Growth -WSG—Jessica Rosenhamer- No meeting

Staff—Don Alexander – See Staff Meeting notes for issues of pertinence, some brief discussion about shifting things in the worship space to make more room for musicians. This will be evaluated and re-visited after Christmas.

Board of Education—Shannon Schroeder – No report

Campus Ministry -CM—Elise Mullen - No report

Finance and Administration - FAC—Diane Lyon-  
Our parish ended the year meeting expenses. Fr. Jon reported on a productive two day meeting with Alumni, some staff, and current students in Omaha. The purpose of the meeting was for planning in the future for development. Fall Cleanup day is Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about repaving the upper parking lot and improvements that need to be planned.

**7:45 pm New Business**

AMOS – There was a discussion about the possibility of having an AMOS House meeting during September council meeting to provide input to them. Parish Council decided that this was not necessary since council members can attend House meetings to provide input to this group. Parish Council meetings must serve a broader purpose.

**7:50 pm President's Report – Jon Seda**

Following the meeting the annual Corporation Meeting with the two trustees of the Parish will take place. Fr. Jon shared some of his priorities. These will include the preparation and delivery of excellent liturgies, the importance of vocational discernment, and the value of service trips including trips outside the United States. He will continue to charge forward with these priorities within the Parish.

**8:00 pm Adjourned precisely at 8 pm**

**Meeting Dates:**

September 14	Doug Ulaszek
October 12	Dave Dirks

Respectfully submitted by Patrick Clem