

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pastoral Council
Regular Meeting Minutes April 20, 2006
Parish Residence, 7pm
Approved May 11, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. J.C. Cain, Deacon Mario Renteria, Helen Soto Knaggs, Sylvia Castro, Pam Corn, Leo De La Garza, Salvador Hernandez, Olga Salas, Minerva Skeith, Benny Sustaita, Teo Tijerina

ABSENT EXCUSED: Art Cardenas

ABSENT UNEXCUSED: Toni Aguirre, Al Barrette

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:05 pm – Helen Knaggs, Roll Call – Olga Salas; Quorum present.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER**– Fr. J.C. Cain; Parish Mission Statement – Olga Salas
- III. **MINUTES of March 9 meeting were approved as written;** 1st Pam Corn, 2nd Teo Tijerina. There was discussion regarding disseminating minutes to the parish before they are officially approved as we have been doing and it was decided to wait until their approval at the next meeting to publish them. After discussion about whether to continue to translate minutes into Spanish due to expense and small demand, it was decided to continue the practice. All Ministry leaders should be targeted to receive the minutes so they can stay in the information loop.

IV. PASTORAL REPORT BY FR. J.C. CAIN

1. Holy Week liturgies went extremely well and were the best he's seen in his five year tenure.
2. Fr. will be on vacation for three weekends from Apr. 22-May 9. Substitute priests are scheduled.
3. Fr. requested recommendations for parishioners to serve on Finance and Pastoral Councils. Members whose terms will expire in June are: Salvador Hernandez, Al Barrette, and Olga Salas, all of whom are eligible to serve another term if desired.
4. It's possible that we may get some help this summer from a young Oblate completing his studies.

V. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT – SYLVIA CASTRO

1. **SIGNAGE:** Signs have been ordered for building identification of the parish office, parish hall, education building, and food pantry. Also three map/directional signs and three no trespassing signs have been ordered. This should help with liability issues.
2. **SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Maggie Rincon, new director, is making preparations to submit grant requests. It was requested that Maggie be present at the next meeting in order to meet the council. The food pantry still needs money to meet the high demands of helping the poor with groceries, utilities and rent.
3. The possibility of leasing the upstairs parish office space to a nonprofit organization is being investigated.

VI. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT - PAM CORN

1. **FINANCE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006-2007 PARISH BUDGET** include increasing the weekly budget for the offertory by 10% to \$10,800, a 4% salary increase for staff with over one year tenure, a capital improvement budget of \$25,000, and to develop a 'Feed the Poor' fundraising program to solicit donors outside the parish for funds for the food pantry.
2. Current Metrics Report and the proposed new budget for '06-'07 were explained in detail and members' questions were answered.
3. Contribution Envelope packets will be mailed to all registered parishioners on May 1. The current number of registered families is 1431, which has been in flux since the registration updates of new additions and purging of outdated data this year.
4. Collections have steadily increased due to stewardship efforts. Current deficit has declined to \$1000.
5. After discussion, Minerva Skeith's recommendation that the definition of 'Parishioner' on the parish bulletin be modified to say 'ACTIVE Parishioner', was accepted by consensus.
6. By May 1, each Council member must submit their individual recommendations for priorities for the following proposed capital improvements: church marquee, church sign, campus exterior lighting, classroom furniture, hall furniture, basement renovation to accommodate enlarged food pantry, church renovations, religious ed marquee, bell tower repair for centennial re-commissioning, and an iron fence and gates on the complex.
7. Minerva Skeith is charged with submitting an accountability report for Austin Interfaith's budget request for an increase in support from \$2400 to \$3000 annually.
8. Fr. Taylor from Oklahoma City will visit OLG on May 17-18 to speak to the parish on stewardship.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **COUNCIL VACANCY:** A motion was made and carried unanimously to accept Toni Aguirre's resignation due to her current work responsibilities. She will serve until Fr. appoints her replacement. 1st Teo Tijerina, 2nd Benny Sustaita
2. **IMMIGRATION ISSUE POSITION:** Leo De La Garza's request that Council consider taking a formal position on the national debate on immigration was tabled until next meeting.
3. **AUSTIN INTERFAITH ACCOUNTABILITY SESSION:** Minerva Skeith encouraged all Council members to attend the next accountability session to be held on April 30 at Dolores Church.
4. **CENTENNIAL:** Helen Knaggs will call a special meeting in May to continue the planning of the centennial events.
5. **SANCTUARY CHAIRS:** Minerva Skeith voiced her comments about the new furniture, for which funds were donated anonymously. Olga Salas explained the rationale and process of selection by the Liturgy Committee and committed to forward Minerva's comments to the Liturgy Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT 9:30 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY OLGA SALAS