

All Saints Pastoral Council

Minutes – March 11th, 2015 Meeting

Present: Joe Ridgway, Kathy Gosh, Sue Rathbun, John Stopher, Christiane Page, Eric Greenfield, Alex Riedinger, Kate Reid, Jack Ziegler, Fr. Fred.

Excused/Absent: Betty Drotar, Betty Rankin, Jim Sherwood, Diane Rizzo, Agatha Devore, Shiela Liegel.

Guests: Michael Geraghty, Kathy O’Connell

Jack welcomed everyone at 7:05 p.m. and Fr. Fred led the Council in an opening prayer.

a. Update on Capital Drive:

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| 1. Total Dollars pledged to date: | \$537,709.59 |
| 2. Total Dollars paid on Pledges to date: | \$155,096.27 |
| 3. Campaign Costs paid to date: | \$ 21,843.81 |
| 4. Total Drive cash on hand: | \$133,252.46 |

Jack explained to the Council that the purpose in reporting above data is to determine whether there will be adequate cash on hand to fund the elevator phase of the renovation project or if it will be necessary to take out a short term loan to cover the costs.

He also reported that \$35, 463.64 remains from the original funds allocated for the renovation. The Interior Design budget is above and beyond the original allocated funds. Michael Geraghty will review the ledger of bills paid and estimate the total of the unpaid invoices for renovation work.

b. Review of renovated BHC and dedication

Council members reported that their sense of the community’s reaction to the BHC renovations was very positive and in many cases, it exceeded expectations. The dedication weekend was also the first time that many parishioners got to see the renovations to the first floor Spiritual Renewal Center space. One Council member suggested that we may want to consider sponsoring several “welcoming” events directed to SU campus groups, the neighborhood and other community groups and agencies. It could be an effective strategy for promoting the availability of the space.

Jack identified a number of the tasks that remain to be completed. The Construction/Design Committee will oversee the remainder of this work. He also reported that Sr. Kathy is working with a committee to develop policies and procedures regarding use of the facility. She will be submitting drafts to the Council for input.

Jack distributed to Council members occupancy layouts for the Community Room which were prepared by Michael Geraghty. One layout is for theater style seating for lectures and other

similar programs for a total of 156 persons; the second is for seating at tables with eight chairs per table for a maximum of 152. While each layout is below fire department occupancy standards, they indicate maximum capacity that preserves both major North/South access as well as adequate spacing between tables.

It was observed that when events call for additional table seating, e.g. the Friends of Dorothy Dinners, classrooms, especially #4 & 5 can be used which will provide up to 60 additional places.

c. Review of Proposed Design Plan for Elevator and North Entrance

Michael Geraghty presented an initial rendering of the elevator addition to the BHC. A tower will be erected on the Northeast corner of the current structure which will house the elevator shaft and mechanicals as well as a vestibule into which the elevator will open. The cab will be 5' by 7' with a 2,500 lb capacity. The rendering also indicated the erection of a covered portico over the North entrance doors, one of which will be automatic for easy accessibility for persons with disabilities. Construction is projected to begin this Spring and will be completed by Fall.

Michael responded to a number of member questions clarifying the proposed design. Kathy O'Connell, Chair of the Parish Disabilities Task Force, was present and indicated sincere appreciation for the proposed elevator project and satisfaction with the general design. A letter expressing the gratitude of the Task Force was circulated among Council members.

It was noted that, based on the recommendations of an engineering study of the drainage issues impacting the BHC, excavations of the drainage system may also take place at the same time as the installation of the elevator in order to identify and correct the cause of water in the basement level of the facility. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will be discussing the water issue and submit its recommendations in the near future.

d. Report on the Parish Listening Project

Jack outlined the background for the Parish Listening Project in preparation for the upcoming Vatican Synod on the Family. He noted that in less than two weeks, 831 persons responded to our Parish survey. Notices regarding the availability of the survey were included in Syracuse New Times, Oswego, Utica and Binghamton papers as well as the Catholic Sun. Information on how to access the survey was E Mailed to parishes in the Diocese. and a number of people took paper copies either for themselves or for people they felt might be interested.

In addition to extensive quantitative data, the survey generated literally hundreds of responses providing invaluable qualitative data on participants' attitudes toward a number of Church teachings and practices that touch on marriage, family life, divorce, and LGBT issues. Many respondents related personal experiences which stories oftentimes described deep pain and anger regarding the Church's failure to meet the pastoral needs of people.

Jack and Fr. Fred acknowledged the work of Alex Riedinger and Meg Ksander who were principally responsible for all the technical work in designing the survey instrument, getting it online and coordinating the results from the Survey Monkey site. Alex echoed the same

reaction to the survey responses as expressed by Fr. Fred and Jack. The Council expressed appreciation for the invaluable information this initiative has generated.

The qualitative input was forwarded to the Diocese for incorporation into the Diocese's response to the Vatican. The Listening Project Committee will continue to study the results and identify principal themes contained in the personal responses. Alex spoke to Rita Reicher, President of KS & R who has volunteered the services of her research firm in analyzing survey data.

The Committee will formulate a report that will be sent on behalf of the Pastoral Council to the five American Bishops who will attend the Synod, the Apostolic Delegate, the Vatican Cardinal in charge of the Synod, Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Cunningham as well as directly to Pope Francis.

The information from the project will be invaluable to the Parish in development of programs and practices as we reach out to those who feel unwelcomed or marginalized from the Church. The Council will also discuss various ways to communicate findings from the survey to the Parish community.

e. Centro Bus Service Advocacy

The Council received a request from Mary Jureller and the members of her Lenten faith sharing group that the Council consider implementing an action in support of those who are protesting the projected cuts in Centro bus service. It was recognized that these reductions in service will impact significantly people without cars, especially those who depend on this service to get to work, do necessary shopping and access medical care. This cut-back in service is due to financial difficulties Centro is facing as well as State budget cuts that will impact regional Upstate transportation services.

The Council agreed that this is an important issue and agreed that the Parish should take an advocacy initiative. It was recommended that members of the faith sharing group prepare a statement on behalf of the Parish community which would be made available at the weekend liturgies for people to sign. This statement will be submitted to Centro as well as appropriate State legislators.

Parishioners will be encouraged to express their views directly to Centro as well as to legislative offices and the Governor. The bulletin will contain appropriate contact information. The Council expressed gratitude to the members of the faith sharing group for their sensitivity and initiative.

Jack reminded the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th. Fr. Fred concluded the meeting with a prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Ziegler

