

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Notes of Meeting of January 10, 2017

The meeting was held at the Parish Center, and began at 6:30 p.m. Attending were:

Present?		Name, Position	Elected/ Apptd.	Rep/ Liaison	Term Expires
Y	N				
X		Fr. Grant Gerlach, Pastor			
X		Ed Fischer, Chair	Elected	Liturgy, CLM	Fall 2019
X		Mary Krogman Vice Chair	Elected	Bldg/Mtc	Fall 2019
X		John Dvorak – <i>left early</i>	Elected	Rel. Ed.	Fall 2018
X		Donna Hafner	Elected	Arts + Env., WSJ	Fall 2018
	X	Joe Uhrich	Apptd.	KCs	
X		Brenda Oster	Apptd.	Finance	
X		Amy Miklos	Apptd.	Young Adults/Youth	
X		Jim Brickey, Bldg/Mtc Chair			

Cindy Weidenbach attended the meeting also, as an alternate member, pursuant to agreement at the last meeting. The notes from the last meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted. The notes were approved as-is.

Building/Maintenance – Jim Brickey

Drainage into basement furnace room – Work on the back of the church (north of the west entrance) was conducted to reduce/eliminate water drainage into the furnace room. Total for dirt, excavation and gravel was \$2284.50, already paid. Jim said the Parish had received the bill from K2 Concrete for installation of the drainage at the west entrance, which totaled more than \$900.

Water leak in tunnel – Jim reported that water is leaking into the tunnel – last year’s fixes are not working. **Jim would like to call Blackburn for assessment and suggestions** – we have money in the budget. Members thought that was a good idea. **He will call them tomorrow.**

Parking lot insurance liability – Jim had talked to the insurance company about liability for unauthorized public use of the west parking lot, including skateboarding. They suggested we develop and post at least two signs advising the public the lot is for church parking only, and warning that unauthorized use is prohibited. Jim purchased three signs at a total cost of \$248. These will be placed at the three entry points to the lot. No further action report on this item.

Rectory bathroom – At the last meeting a suggestion was made to move the washer and dryer upstairs for priest convenience. This would require rewiring to provide 220 volts. Apparently this would be feasible. Jim was going to talk to John Fejfar. He had not yet done so. Further discussion revealed some difference of opinion on whether this was really feasible. Fr. Gerlach said he does not use the laundry facility here. There appears to be no rush on this.

Other items -- The Parish Center building drain is icing up the dentist's parking lot to the south; we need to address this. Also, snow is making access to the dumpster difficult for Sander. Jim will ask them to move it to a lower more-accessible location. Finally, Steve Davis has given notice he will not be available for snow removal work next year. We will need to find another means to get this work done.

OLD BUSINESS

Gathering Area

(Background: The Parish Council had previously asked that a small steering group explore possible renovation concepts in the church building, including upgrading power to the building to allow for installation of air conditioning units, providing for an accessible gathering area, and upgrading the basement bathrooms. The group should also discuss some possible funding ideas. Mary Krogman convened a group and is serving as the liaison. Group members include Craig Bobzien, Rich Zacher, Tab Arthur, Finny Sechser, John Fejfar, and Mike Lewis, and several others. Several of these people have served on similar groups in the past.)

At the last meeting Mary reported the sentiment of the group currently is that we need both a gathering area and additional seating. Bathrooms in basement may not be feasible or necessary to include in this project. Mary has looked at prior plans developed in earlier attempts to build an addition. Apparently soil sampling was done for an earlier effort, and the group wants to see those results. This could help them determine where to go next. The need for fund raising was also discussed. After the group has further discussions and makes some determinations, they would come in to brief the Council on their findings.

Tonight Mary told the Council the steering group will meet next week for further discussion. She said she will urge them to begin to consider some options. They have researched what was done before. There likely will be some range of ideas of how big a change to make. Fr. Gerlach has tried to reach the Diocesan building commission or equivalent, without success, to advise them that we are exploring alterations to the building that may exceed \$10,000. He will keep trying.

Priority Plan Action Items

(Background: Fr. Gerlach had asked that members read the document, "Through Him, With Him and In Him", authored by Bishop Gruss, which was sent to all parishioners this summer, specifically Chapter IX. The Diocesan action plan calls for at least one meeting of prayer and reflection on reconciliation in the dimensions of the individual, family and parish.) Father conducted a Parish meeting on Wednesday night, December 7, 2016, per discussion at the last Council meeting, but weather limited attendance and Fr. had had to leave for a time, so he was not able to accomplish what he had planned. Fr. Gerlach said he wanted to reschedule this session in February.

Mary suggested a reconciliation session for fallen-away parishioners, with 5-6 priests on hand, similar to the Mercy Night held recently at the Cathedral. She said she had seen several people at that session that were apparently quite moved by it. Fr. said this could be part of the future reconciliation plan for the parish. Fr. said we have a list of "inactives", and noted we could ask

parishioners to submit names to augment that list. Father will ask about the card the Cathedral apparently had sent to the public in advance of their session.

Father still would like to review the Bishop's book with the Council, and asked that members read and be prepared to discuss Chapters 1, 2 and 3 at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Women of St. John's Proposal for Church Basement Floor

WSJ seek to re-tile the floor of the Parish Hall. They sent a letter to the Council and Father in December, with notice of their intent, requesting any needed permission, and offering to pay for flooring of the existing bathrooms if the Parish can renovate them by April 1. Mary presented two bids for the floor work, from Freed's and Black Hills Interior. In discussion, some members felt the Parish should remodel the downstairs bathrooms now, and do the floor all at once, while others felt we needed to put some thought into what those renovated bathrooms should look like.

Mary moved that the Council remodel the bathrooms now, and take the WSJ offer to pay for the flooring. Seconded. In discussion, it was suggested Mary ask her steering group to provide some guiding concepts for the bathroom remodel, and ask WSJ to relax their timeline to allow this to happen. Mary offered to ask Black Hills Interior to design the remodel (but she noted they would not actually perform the remodeling work). Father was concerned what the costs of this work might be, and that it might lead to postponing the entryway work. Would the standing offer of money for the entryway be rescinded if this happened? Father said he would talk to the Diocesan building person or committee to get some ideas on how to proceed.

Mary amended her original motion, to read that the Council look into what it would take to remodel the bathrooms. Seconded, and passed unanimously. (Cindy W. voted on this, since John had had to leave early.)

REPORTS

(Background: At the October meeting it was agreed that Ed would send out notes of the most recent meeting two weeks prior to the next one, and request Council members to "reply to all" with any reports from their liaison committees. Members could review these email replies, and then initiate any discussion at the next meeting.)

Email replies were as follows:

- Finance Committee (Brenda) – Brenda sent a two-page updated balance sheet current as of January 4. She said we are ahead of schedule on the contributions for the year.
- Women of St. John's (Donna) – The upcoming Ham Dinner will feature a raffle. Donna asked if the Council wished to provide a raffle basket. Council members decided to contribute wine, cheese and chocolate. Members will bring their items to the next meeting.
- Knights of Columbus (Joe) – Free throw contest will be held January 29 at Jr/Sr high gym; and, the South Dakota KCs have initiated a new fundraiser.

NEXT MEETING

Father said he is trying to line up Council meetings in the three parishes to make it more convenient for his schedule. He would like Pastoral Councils to meet after Finance Councils meet. He proposed that the Parish Pastoral Council meet every odd-numbered month, on the third Tuesday, at 6:30, as follows:

March 14

May 16

July 18

Sept 17

Nov 14

The next Pastoral Council meetings will follow this schedule unless decided otherwise.