

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
Notes of Meeting of May 16, 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	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			
X		Cindy Weidenbach		Alternate member	

Visitors: Hank Whitney

The notes from the last meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted. The notes were approved as-is.

Building/Maintenance – Jim Brickey

Water leak in tunnel -- Rapid Foundation Repair (RFR) worked on the tunnel April 18. They applied a flexible epoxy both inside and outside to seams in the concrete. Jim and Ed inspected the work today with an RFR representative, and it looks good for now. If further work is needed RFR will be called back.

Parking lot insurance liability – *Background: 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.* Bill Wakeland and John Dvorak installed three signs to comply with the recommendation of our insurance company.

Hank Whitney had purchased handicap parking signs. These have been installed on the west side of the church, indicating four parking stalls on the concrete pad that are reserved for handicap parking. We have a stencil for handicap parking lot signs, and are waiting for better weather, when several volunteers will work with Jim to paint the lot and the parking bumpers.

Ice on neighbors lot – *Background: The Parish Center building drain is icing up the dentist's parking lot to the south, need to address this. Decided to look at this in the spring.* No action on this item at this time.

Parish Hall Flooring and Associated – At the last meeting the Council approved general upgrades to the existing Parish Hall bathrooms, not to exceed \$2200, but did not specify any specific improvements. A proposal was introduced at this meeting. A couple of the proposed modifications to the bathrooms would need to be accomplished soon to mesh with the scheduled flooring project.

Jim explained current proposal, as follows: .

- Convert both bathrooms for use by either sex, including door locks and signage
- Current men’s room – remove partitions, leave urinal, stool and vanity in place
- Current women’s room – remove partitions, remove east stool and seal the floor drain and water valve, replace west stool with higher stool (on-hand), add an additional grip on south wall, replace current vanity with wall-mount, install changing station – rough estimate of \$600
- Current women’s room – widen the doorway to make this bathroom wheelchair-accessible -- remove wood door frame, cut the opening wider, replace door frame and solid-core door – rough estimate of \$2500

To mesh with the schedule for flooring work the timeline would be as follows:

- Tuesday, May 16 – Jim Brickey to investigate contractor and timing for expansion of women’s restroom doorway
- Friday, June 2 – Bathroom renovation (doorway) work completed, bathrooms vacated
- Sunday, June 4 – In Parish Hall, move chairs and tables to the north end
- Monday, June 5 -- Flooring contractor starts on south end of Parish Hall
- Wednesday, June 7 or thereabouts – Move chairs and tables to the south end; remove stools in bathrooms
- Friday, June 9 – Flooring contractor completes work

Mary felt strongly we should remove the urinal from the current men’s room. Other than that, no objections or comments were raised. Ed noted that this proposal appeared to fit within the general direction that came forth from the last meeting, but asked anyone with concerns to let him know soon.

Paint Parish Center – The Parish Center is in need of painting or staining. Cindy suggested we use stain rather than paint, since it will weather better. There was no consensus or decision to move forward with this proposal at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

Joe Uhrich has given notice that he can no longer attend Council meetings due to conflicts with other activities. The Council will need to discuss if and how to fill this vacant seat. Cindy Weidenbach was invited to serve as an alternate member at a recent meeting, and accepted. It

was noted Father could appoint her to serve in the vacant position, at least on a temporary basis. This could help avoid a situation where a quorum was not present.

Fr. Gerlach said he wants to transition to Council members representing each of the five foundational ministries noted in Chapter 12 of the Priority Plan, as follows:

- Sacraments and Worship;
- Education and Formation;
- Governance and Finance;
- Social Services and Outreach;
- Vocations and Evangelization.

At the advice of a more seasoned priest (Fr. Tim Hoag) would like to do away with elections and go to appointed members.

This item was tabled for now, with no decision on Cindy as an alternate, and whether she should take the seat vacated by Joe, even on a temporary basis.

Gathering Area

(Background: The Parish Council had previously asked that a small steering group explore possible renovation concepts, 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.)

The Council may need to provide some guidance for the steering group so they can proceed.

Mary said there is no proposed design or cost estimate for a gathering area, but speculated that if it should cost \$250,000 we are one-third there, with money contributed to date. She suggested an opportunity for parishioners to contribute to a gathering area fund, with the understanding that we are still developing a proposal and will build something in the future. Mary will meet again with her group and will ask someone to write a grant to help with funding for construction. John suggested we could make envelopes available for contributions.

In the discussion that ensued it became clear there was a poor understanding of the sequence of steps for major building renovations, including funding, proposal development, feasibility study, Parish review and Diocesan review and approval, and perhaps others. Father suggested that he and Mary meet at a later time to discuss and acquire a better understanding of the entire process.

NEW BUSINESS

2017-18 Budget – The Finance Committee has finalized a budget for the new year beginning July 1. At the next meeting Brenda will present this for review and approval by the Council.

Elevator and Facility Issues – *Background: Over the last few months there have been several instances of damage to the church elevator by unsupervised children, which necessitated one expensive repair. Father spoke to the older group of children but has not yet spoken to the younger group that appears to have been involved with the elevator. There was also at least one instance in which children were playing on the roof of the church. The Council should be aware of this and possibly discuss some options for remedies.*

This item was to be presented as information for Council members, and discussion of possible actions if problems continue. There was no action or discussion on this item due to time.

Marian Devotional – A group in the Parish is promoting a devotional in which families may participate at their own discretion. This will go from May through October. This item was to have been presented for information only, but was not brought up at the meeting due to time.

Another parishioner had asked why the light in Mary's alcove does not remain on all the time, out of respect. This item was not presented or discussed at the meeting, due to time.

Father's items

Father Gerlach added several items to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, as follows.

Pastoral Council and Priority Plan – Father believes the main work of this Council should focus on pastoral work of the Parish. He feels facilities matters and other money-related business items are more proper to the Finance Council. He said Bishop Cupich instituted Finance Councils and that they were intended to address those items. Father said this Council exists to help the pastor vision how to implement the pastoral work of the parish, as guided by the Priority Plan, and that Plan needs to be the main work of this Council.

In discussion it was suggested that the agenda items we have currently could be dealt with by a subgroup to the Finance Council. It was noted that the current Council bylaws predate the Priority Plan and do not foresee representatives along the five foundational ministries, and prescribe that several members are to be elected by the Parish, with several others appointed as liaisons to various groups. Further, the bylaws state that the purpose of the Council is to assist with both the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church. The bylaws would have to be changed to focus solely on spiritual/pastoral needs and to allow membership exclusively by Pastoral appointment aligned with the five foundational ministries. No action was taken or prescribed on this item at this meeting.

Pastor's Schedule – Father said that he is contemplating a change in his schedule to allow him to better focus on needs at Custer and Hot Springs. He would change nothing on the weekend. But, starting in July, he would spend an entire week in Hot Springs, then the next week in Custer. He noted that Custer is still a mission parish of Hot Springs, which is the resident parish. Specifically, he said he would be in Custer the second week in July (July 9-15) with Duc in Altum. The next week he would be in Hot Springs. July 23-29 is Totus Tuus, and he would be gone beginning July 31 for 11 days. Father admitted he would not be in Custer very much these two months, but would say Mass each day while here, with morning Mass Monday and

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and evening Mass other days. He said he will serve Edgemont from his Hot Springs time.

Pastoral assignments will come out soon. Father will announce this weekend that the Bishop has assigned him as Pastor here for six years, but asked we not divulge this till after he has made that announcement himself to the Parish.

NEXT MEETING

The next Finance Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 11, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Due to Father's proposed schedule change the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 6:00 p.m. Members should be prepared to discuss Chapters 2 and 3, then 4 and 5 of the Priority Plan. This body will begin to increase assistance with pastoral needs, as Father indicated here, with the Finance Council taking on more of the Parish's business including facility needs.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.