

Sacred Heart Church Exploratory Committee Re-Presentation

November 5, 2017

Exploratory Committee Members present: Rich Heath (chair), David Gunderson, and Steve Austin.

Parishioners present: 37

Fr. Steve opened the presentation with a few comments giving a context to the presentation. First, he needed to hear the presentation so that he could be brought up to speed on the fundamental questions. Second, as a parish we need to begin this conversation again so that it can be brought to some conclusion. Further, there is concern from parish members over the potential of creating a debt that is beyond the capacity of the parish to pay. Father assured everyone that while some debt may be necessary, he would not let the parish take on a large, unmanageable debt.

There are people in the parish who support building new church on a new site and those who want to stay at the present location. It is important to listen to all the concerns that people have in order to make a decision that we can all support.

Fr. Steve also gave a few updates on the status of some current projects. The roof and rafters of the Parish Office have been repaired. The mold in the Office has been killed and cleaned. The previous plan to tear down the Office Building and put up a temporary structure is no longer necessary.

The committee then gave its presentation. The Power Point slides can be seen at:

<http://www.sacredheartpullman.org/new-church-plans>

It is impossible to capture all that was said during the presentation but a few of the highlights follow. The current building has many problems that will be hard to address: disabled accessibility, parking, classroom egress, sightlines from the annex, and size of the Parish Hall to name a few. The cost of addressing these and other problems with the current building is completely unknown.

The parish might also choose to tear down the current buildings and rebuild on the current site or find a new location within city limits and build. The estimated cost of this would be approximately \$8 million. In both of these scenarios it would be wise to raise \$2 million extra to help pay for the added maintenance costs that are sure to follow. If the parish was unable to raise money at this level it would be necessary to scale back the plans to meet reality.

It was pointed out that if the parish decides to stay at the current location it would be advisable that we begin buying some of the surrounding property. This would help with the parking needs and give us more flexibility in the future.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of “where do we go from here.” It is very clear that we need to have more accurate information about the following: Has the parish been growing or not? What is Pullman’s projected growth? What projections does WSU have for the next 20 to 40 years? In general we need some data about what the current reality is and what the future might look like so that we can plan and make choices with our eyes open. Fr. Steve will begin gathering data and then have another parish meeting to present the findings.