

**Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council**  
**February 11, 2018**

**Members present: Mike Bradley, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Bill Engels, Jim Evermann, Lorraine Farrand, Kevin Owens (Chair), Eric Patera, and Charlotte Snekvik.**

Also present: **Mary Sutherland**, parish secretary.

The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer.

**Ratification of Constitution & Bylaws:** The formation of new committees will not mean more work for the council members, unless they choose to. The idea is to spread out the responsibility, not concentrate it. **Charlotte** moved to ratify the new Constitution and Bylaws, **Eric** seconded. The motion carried.

**Vice Chair: Charlotte Snekvik** is the Vice Chair.

**Review of Meeting with Commercial Developer: Fr. Steve and Kevin** met with **Justin Rasmussen** of Palouse Commercial Real Estate. The main points from that meeting are:

- Pullman is growing about 1% per year. It will feel faster due to congested traffic.
- Student housing is a very good investment, even during recessions.
- The land in Pullman is close to Seattle values - about \$36 per square foot.
- The houses around the church will be replaced by student apartments.
- Purchasing land around the church means purchasing income streams, making it more expensive.
- The current grounds of Sacred Heart would be very desirable to commercial developers. The land is worth the money, not the building.

The meeting was part of a three-pronged information gathering effort:

1. Understanding the commercial building in the region. (*complete*)
2. Gathering information on the parish. (*in progress*)
3. Gathering information on the city & future development (*Feb 12 meeting*).

We need to make choices about what to do – stay, retrofit another building, or move to a new one.

A fourth prong of the information gathering effort should be:

4. What do we need for our parish? (*space for worship, faith formation, social gatherings, etc.*)

We need prayerful discernment with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Review of Encounter Ministries property:** Several parishioners toured the Encounter Ministries property to see if it could work for our parish if the bond issue didn't pass. It would not have been ideal.

The council discussed the most urgent problem facing the parish at this time: the lack of secondary exits from the classrooms in case of an emergency.

The consensus was:

1. Fire drills and armed intruder drills should be conducted periodically.
2. Fr. Steve will hire a company to do a safety study of the classroom area to see if it can be retrofitted with exits and what that would cost. Money from the parish improvement fund will be used for the study.

**Pastoral council vacancy: Scott Blasco** is resigning because he can't attend the meetings.

**Mary Schweitzer** was nominated last year. **Fr. Steve** asked if she would be willing to serve the rest of **Scott's** term and she will.

**Quarterly longer meetings?** The council discussed whether to have longer meetings in the evenings on a quarterly basis, or have more than one meeting some months. They decided to occasionally meet a second time during the month.

**Diocese of Spokane Capital Campaign Thoughts:** The diocese wants to know if there is support for a diocesan capital campaign. It would be in addition to the Annual Catholic Appeal. They don't have a specific project in mind but had a number of suggestions such as schools, the seminary, Newman centers and the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. The consensus was that we have our own fundraising to worry about. Also, **Fr. Steve** noted that a number of parishes have deferred maintenance after helping to pay the diocesan settlement. This is not a good time.

**Next meetings:** Finish February 11 agenda: Sunday, February 25, 9:45 am.

March meeting: Sunday, March 18, 9:45 am.

Submitted by **Mary Sutherland**.