

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council

February 9, 2020

Members present: Alex Amado, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Mary Schweitzer, Char Snekvik (Chair), and Charlotte Worthy.

Also present: **Kurt Zimmerman**, chair of the Finance & Administration Commission, and **Mary Sutherland**, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer. The council welcomed Char to the meeting. We are still praying for her husband, Don, who is having cancer surgery February 21.

Commission Report: Kurt Zimmerman gave the Finance and Administration Commission report. It was divided into several sections:

Building Committee Update: Price negotiations continue on the Wawawai Road property. CKA architects are adding the Moscow-Pullman (MP) highway property to the facilities study. Their goal is to finish the study by the end of April. Fr. Steve, building committee members, and CKA met with the City of Pullman Director of Public Works to find out about city plans for utilities in the MP highway area. Right now they are focused on extending sewer service to the airport. It may be five to ten years before they extend it to the MP highway area. If Catholic Charities agrees to build low income housing, the city council may push for quicker extension of utilities. At this point we would have to dig a well, build a drainage field, and have 20,000 gallons of water in tanks for fire suppression. Catholic Charities is interested in building at the MP highway location. Fr. Steve sent them the City of Pullman study on the need for affordable housing. Fr. Steve is communicating with Sr. Mary Tracey of the Diocese of Spokane, who is very experienced in capital campaigns. She has asked him to collect parish finance records, and records from past capital campaigns.

Finance Update, July – December 2019: The council received a report. It showed all expenses and income, and what percent of the budget was spent or received for those six months.

Total Bank Accounts:	\$766,408.22	Total Parish Income:	\$184,021.45
Total restricted Funds:	\$626,049.87	Total Parish Expenses:	\$173,631.07
Total unrestricted assets:	\$140,358.35	Net Revenue:	\$10,390.38

We are a little behind on what we budgeted to receive as income for the six months, at 90%. We have spent 95.65% of what we had budgeted for the period.

Maintenance Committee Update: Roof leaks in the sanctuary, carport, steeple, etc., need to be identified and addressed. The parish house sewer had to be cleaned out on Friday February 7. The Roto Rooter technician said that the pipe connecting the house to the sewer is made of cardboard coated with tar; that was common in the 1930's. We need to use toilet paper that dissolves quickly. Masonry: The front steps need repair and the gathering space wall needs rebuilding. The architects found that the steps are too high and not uniform. Fr. Steve observed that someone trips on the top step at least once per month. He will have it painted bright yellow. And Jim noted that the bricks are too sharp on the edges, they need to be ground down before painting. The parish house foundations and porch are sagging but a volunteer is working to shore them up. An outside faucet is broken and sunken spots in the lawn need filling. The parking lot needs to be sealed and restriped.

Gardening Committee Update: Mary Sutherland reported that Jane Hommel, Robin Saam, and Lisa Weber plan to work on the church gardens now that Lucille Guettinger has retired. Rob Cassleman had said he could help, too.

Old Business:

Building committee update:

Land off Wawawai Road: After the owner countered at \$510,000 cash with a \$38,000 write-off, the building committee countered back with the original offer of \$450,000. The owner came back at \$485,000 with no tax write-off. The committee is still deciding how to reply.

New Business:

Gonzaga Lecture - *Envisioning a Just Response to the Catholic Clergy Abuse Crisis*. The lecture is on Tuesday, February 25, by Jennifer Beste, from the College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University in Minnesota. Fr. Steve can't go to it, but he hopes that someone from the council or the parish will be able to. She is emphasizing all the topics the council talked about at the September retreat, including really acknowledging the effect on the victims and authentically supporting them.

Where are we in terms of our goals? (*The goals that were formulated at the pastoral council retreat in September, 2019.*)

Cultural – reaching out to those who speak Spanish and other languages: there are a couple more Spanish language baptisms coming up in the spring. Fr. Steve has not had time to take more Spanish, he's hoping to in the spring. We are looking for a new Faith Formation secretary who can speak Spanish and English. Alex will ask people she knows and put the job description on Facebook. We gave out 100 English and 15 Spanish Bibles during the Sunday of the Word of God

distribution. This shows there is a need for Spanish language materials.

Sex Abuse Crisis: We have “Protecting God’s Children” training for those who work with children in the parish. Father hopes that the Gonzaga lecture will spark some other ideas.

Safety Committee: It hasn’t met recently, need to schedule a meeting.

Catechesis for Parents and Grandparents: The Faith Formation Staff changed the format for helping parents teach the sacraments. They have periodic family sacrament nights on Sundays where the parents and children are learning. They will assess how that worked this spring.

Ecumenism: The interreligious (between all faiths) group in Pullman is leaderless. Fr. Steve is trying to get St. James Episcopal to lead it. The people most active in Ecumenism (between Christian faiths) in our parish have been busy caregiving or are out of the country. There was no interreligious Martin Luther King, service this year. WHS will pick it up next year and Fr. Steve will help them. He is now on two WSU committees: the MLK committee and one about homeless students.

Stewardship: We need a committee. Fr. Steve went to a stewardship meeting in Spokane in January. He implemented several of the suggestions, such as writing personal notes on everyone’s parish tax report, including information about online giving with the reports, and sending postcards about online giving to parishioners who don’t donate that we know of. They also said that parishes need to post on Facebook and Instagram every day. Fr. Steve has his homilies posted on Saturday, and just started a video called *Thirty Seconds at Sacred Heart*, that will post on Fridays and tell what’s coming up on the weekend. The staff will make sure to add upcoming events. We need people to take pictures of parish events so they can be posted. We have permission (or not) to post pictures of parish children who are in classes, we should ask adults whether or not their pictures can be put online.

Liturgy: When Fr. Steve visits the homebound they tell him they enjoy watching his homilies online. He would really like to be able to stream the Mass. He is looking into it. Sound quality is a problem since the camera is in the balcony. Aurora suggested doing a podcast (audio only) instead. It could be recorded on the sound system. Meg Gollnick explained to Fr. Steve that we could livestream Disciples in Dialogue on Facebook. That way people can ask questions and respond remotely through chat. He’ll try it first with Theology on Tap, and Meg will show him how.

Welcoming: We need a committee under the Community and Outreach commission.

Vocations: The committee is planning to have a formal Vocations Dinner on alternate years. The other year will be something more informal, like a “fireside chat.” They are trying to keep expenses down.

Parish Directory: The most recent one is from 2014. We need a new one. Some parishes take pictures of each new family, and when they have enough they print out another page for people to add. It will not be online, just a booklet that is handed out at church. The Marketing and Communications committee should be in charge of that.

Council Meetings: Should there be a longer meeting quarterly so the council has time to go over everything? After some discussion, it was decided that three longer meetings a year should be enough, including the September retreat. Evenly spaced meetings would be September, January and May, for two hours on Saturday mornings.

Coffee and doughnuts: The council traded with the social justice ministry, so pastoral council is now hosting on March 22.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 8, 9:45 am.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland.