

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council & Finance Council Meeting

July 10, 2022

Pastoral Council members present: Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Robert Harris, Jim Lincoln, Char Snekvik and Charlotte Worthy. Mary Sutherland, parish secretary.

Finance Council members present: Erik Coats and Bernie McEldowney. Linea Johnson, office manager.

Opening Prayer - Our Father.

Fr. Steve did not intend for the councils to meet before the survey period ended, but there is a decision to make before Monday, July 11, when the proposed new property will go on the open market. The sellers released us from our non-disclosure agreement on Friday, July 8, so a Flocknote went out to the parish, and our website was updated with the location and name of the business being sold. It is the Pullman Heating and Electric property at 1045 Davis Way.

Negotiations between the parish and the business owners since the building presentation on June 28 went something like this:

1. The owners said we could have a feasibility study period to evaluate the property.
2. The parish proposed a longer study, to determine if we can and should buy the property. We offered \$50,000 earnest money with a month-long study period.
3. The owners countered with \$300,000 earnest money and a 14-day study.
4. We asked for a slight reduction in the \$3 million asking price, and a longer study.
5. The owners stuck with the asking price, earnest money amount, and length of study.

Fr. Steve is concerned that two weeks is much too fast; we won't know any more in two weeks than we know now.

The decision for this meeting is: do we put down earnest money for the feasibility study? Alternatively, do we keep studying and take a chance that someone else will buy the property?

Members discussed the pros and cons at length, with everyone getting a chance to speak.

The main discussion points:

1. What is the value of commercial property in Pullman right now?
2. Traffic could be a big concern. There is only one way in and out, via Park Street. There is no cost effective way to build another access.
3. The new property is visible.
4. The new property has a lot of space. We need a bigger social hall, kitchen and RE offices.
5. Will a buyer really give us \$4.5 million in cash for our property?
6. The costs for updating the present church look high. The Design West architects are professionals and good at estimating. Costs right now are extremely high. The estimates in the previous Castella Kom (CKA) report are out of date, would be much higher now. It is impossible to tell how expensive it will be to update.
7. This is a very difficult decision; arguments on both sides are strong.
8. We may never fix the parking at the current site.
9. If we don't do something now, everything will stop when we eventually get a new priest.
10. Two weeks is too rushed; not enough time to decide.
11. We can't replicate our history in a new place. However, we can take things with us.
12. We need to consider people's feelings. It takes time to change them; we can't rush.
13. The Pullman Electric building is strong and well built. It could become a church.
14. The classrooms at the current church were built with fire safety in mind, and the construction is good.
15. There is no ADA access at the current church. People don't come because of that.

16. We may never have another chance at a property like this.
17. Will we be able to afford the new property?
18. The CKA report showed that the church is not falling apart.

At the end of the meeting, Fr. Steve said he heard from the majority that putting money down now is not a good idea, due to the very short timeline, and the traffic access problem. We will keep moving forward.

The members decided not to sign the contract at this time.

Closing prayer: Glory Be.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland