

Minutes – St. Cecilia Pastoral Council
Tuesday, Aug 27, 2019, 7:00pm, Social Hall North

Present: Father Jim Secora, Reno Berg, Nancy Jenson, Matt Thatcher, Kate Hartzler, Eddie Boylston, Lois Lehmkuhl, Sarah Mansell (Faith Formation), Colin Murphy (Catholic School Board), Sly Upah (Finance Council)

Staff: Jarrett Wendt, Bill Klein, Bob Hauser

Guests: Jeff Witt, Jeremy Hess

Notes By: Matt Thatcher

1. **Call to Order:** Reno Berg called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Reno led the group in prayer.
3. **Update on Solar Project:** The Ames City Council has approved construction of the solar farm. In 2017, the pastoral council approved purchasing 68 power packs (at a total cost that is now estimated to be approx \$22,500). The monthly credits from this purchase will cover ~5% of the total electric bill for the site. This is now an opportunity for parishioners to donate in the form of contributions towards the parish's purchase of these 68 power packs. The city will want firm commitments to be signed this fall. The opportunity will be presented to parishioners at the ministry fair Sept 7-8 and through a bulletin insert. Matt, Reno and Kate formed an ad hoc committee to update the bulletin insert which had originally been prepared in 2017.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** June 2019 Pastoral Council minutes were approved with one spelling correction (cannon/canon).
5. **Initiatives Review:** Finance committee initiatives update was provided by Sly Upah. The committee has 3 main initiatives which are all ongoing: 1) assess results of stewardship campaign and develop improvement plans, 2) work with facilities to develop a 5-year facilities plan, and 3) meet with other committees to understand their financial needs.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Archdiocese One Capital Campaign:** Father Secora gave an overview of the \$48M campaign which is rolling out at the end of September with four main objectives: 1) \$15M for St Raphael Priest Retirement Program, 2) \$15M for Seminarian education, 3) \$7M for Catholic Charities immigration legal services, and 4) \$11M for repair and improvements to St Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque.
 - B. **Assignments for Ministry Fair:** The goal is to have two people after each mass the weekend of Sept 7-8. Pastoral council plans to highlight projects and initiatives including remodeling project, columbarium project, orientation and priest transition.
 - C. **Building Access Update:** Events that can be scheduled ahead of time can allow for building door locks to be pre-programmed for being unlocked and locked and therefor will not require attendees to have pass cards.
7. **Old Business:**
 - A. **State of indoor Columbarium request to the Archdiocese (no discussion):** Father Secora provided a summary of the status and a review of email communications he has had regarding a columbarium.
 - B. **Committee orientation update:** Lois presented a summary of the focus so far including completion of the pastoral council membership and contact list and name tag tents. Lois plans to send out an agenda for orientation to be held at 10am on Saturday Sept 7th.
 - C. **Facilities projects update:** Jeremy provided several updates. Installation of building access system is complete at the education center. Installation of building access system at the church should be complete by the end of September. Other current and recent projects include chiller and window work at the church, playground and floors at the school, and the roof and gutters at the rectory. Jeremy expressed a desire to better plan spending over the next 5 years and enable improved budgeting. Mark Hanson will be invited to the next pastoral council meeting.
 - D. **Complete prayer assignments:** Prayer leader assignments were completed for the remainder of the 2019-20 committee year, with exception of May 26 which had previously been assigned to Mary Staniger who is no longer leading the Stewardship committee.
8. **Committee and Board Reports (provided in packet):**
 - A. **Business Office-** Bill Klein reported on the July financial statement and noted that the archdiocesan financial report was finished on 8/27. For next year the business office is planning to track financial events in a different way to more closely match the timing of revenue and expenses. Bill noted that there needs to be a focus on increasing revenue.
 - B. **Catholic School Board-** Colin Murphy shared that there is an archdiocesan marketing initiative aimed at increasing enrollment. Students are taking note of the new paintings and building access cameras.
 - C. **Faith Formation-** Sarah Mansell stated that at the next meeting she will report leadership and enrollment numbers.

- D. Finance- Sly Upah provided a budget update. Annual facilities costs were about \$60k over budget. Contributions were up versus prior years, but still less than budgeted. Discussion included comments that offertory needs to increase, and school enrollment needs to increase. Total revenue was down approximately \$100k versus the prior year.
- E. Liturgy- Nancy Jenson shared that there was no meeting in June or July. Liturgical formation night is scheduled for Sept 19th.
- F. Parish Life- Kate Hartzler reported that on 10/16 there is a Fall Leadership Social planned for the chairs of each committee.
- G. Social Justice- no additional updates this month.
- H. Stewardship- there is currently no chair after Mary's term ended.
- 9. Other Business/Additional Comments:**
 - A. Father Secora shared that there will be an event on 8/28 for unveiling and blessing the new mural and blessing of icons.
- 10. Once Around:** None this month.
- 11. Closing Prayer:** Reno led the group in a closing prayer.
- 12. Adjourn:** Reno adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 7pm

Prayer Leader: Nancy Jenson

Visioning Update: Faith Formation (Sarah Mansell)