

**Saint Cecilia Pastoral Council**  
**Tuesday, Nov 26, 2019, 7:00pm, Social Hall North**

**Present:** Father Jim Secora, Reno Berg, Mirna Canuso, Nancy Jenson, Sarah Mansell, Matt Thatcher, Kate Hartzler, Lois Lehmkuhl, Colin Murphy (Catholic School Board), Sly Upah (Finance Council)  
**Staff:** Jarrett Wendt, Jeremy Hess, Bill Klein, Deacon Alan Christy  
**Guests:** Doreen Berg  
**Notes By:** Matt Thatcher

1. **Call to Order:** Reno Berg called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Sarah led the group in prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** October 2019 Pastoral Council minutes were approved with no changes.
4. **Initiatives Review:** Social Justice initiatives update was provided by Doreen Berg. Doreen gave an overview of the very extensive list of activities from the past year including: watching a video on moving from charity to social justice, percentages of budget going to organizations, Sister Water Project was presented to kids but received limited attendance from parishioners, quarterly newsletter, Social Justice ministry fair, updates to bulletin boards including flyers for partner resource organizations, food pantry collections, climate action, refugee alliance, AMOS, immigration event, Good Neighbor annual fundraiser, Emergency Residence Project, Home For A While, parishioner assistance, Giving Tree, paper product collection, social justice good Samaritan sign. One weakness that the committee has identified is the policy for limited lector announcements – the limitation to 1 or 2 sentences inhibits ability to inform about activities such as good Samaritan black bag collections or food pantry collections. There was brief discussion about how the one identified weakness could potentially be overcome in the future. The budget is approximately \$50k per year from black bag collections.
5. **New Business:**
  - A. **Draft Remodel Plan:** Reno presented a very high-level draft plan for remodeling the church including addressing the needs of HVAC, pews, floorcoverings, altar space, baptismal font, sound system, roof and ceiling. The plan includes a proposed list of events in chronological order. The first necessary step if formation of an ad hoc remodel committee including members of the facilities committee, parish council and other parish members with specific relevant expertise and/or a desire to be involved. Reno asked members of the pastoral council to review the proposal and make recommendations for improvements.
  - B. **Draft Columbarium Plan:** Reno provided an update on the options for a columbarium at the Ames Municipal Cemetery or on the St Cecilia Church property. The proposal includes a list of necessary steps in sequence. As with the remodel project, there will need to be people who step forward and drive the process forward. Reno asked members of the pastoral council to review the proposal and make recommendations for improvements. Father Secora noted that there are some other dioceses (not Dubuque) where Bishops do not permit any Columbarium to be on church property.
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Active Shooter Plan Update:** Reno hopes to have a report of suggestions from the Ames Police Department to present in January. The intent is to have parishioners be safe and feel safe during masses and other parish events. Father Secora gave some background on plans for adding security cameras around the church property including inside the chapel. The school is adding the ability for the office to quickly lock down the building if ever needed.
  - B. **Columbarium Update:** Lois thanked council members for input on questions regarding a potential Columbarium at the cemetery. There is an insert planned for the bulletin regarding a survey about parishioner interest in the Columbarium proposals. Who is interested? What is your preferred location? Would you be willing to serve on a board overseeing perpetual care? Would you be willing to pre-pay? In general, people typically pre-pay for their niche(s) in a Columbarium. Members of the Pastoral Council and Columbarium Committee will be available to get input after masses Dec 7/8, 2019.
  - C. **Re-circulation of Solar Panel options to parish:** The council discussed presenting parishioners with another opportunity to make contributions to the Community Solar project. To date there have been contributions of approximately \$3k-\$4k total. The expectation is that the solar farm will be completed by approximately July 2020. "Give the Gift of Light this Christmas Season". Lois suggested the possibility of sometime having an event where all loose change collected goes towards this purpose. Highlight the ability to make contributions of any size. Matt will update the bulletin insert flyer and review with Father and Reno.
7. **Committee and Board Reports (provided in packet):** This month, for most committees no additional updates were given due to length of the meeting. See committee reports / minutes.
  - A. Liturgy- Nancy expressed thanks to Bob for all he does for the parish.
  - B. Stewardship- A committee chair is needed but has not been selected yet.

- C. Finance- An HVAC repair was needed but at this point was able to be completed by replacing only a relatively inexpensive \$300 compressor. At some future time, a more significant improvement will be needed.
  - D. Faith Formation- No update.
  - E. Catholic School Board- Colin provided a brief strategic planning update. The breakfast program that started in October has had a positive response.
  - F. Social Justice- No additional update.
  - G. Parish Life- No update.
  - H. Business Office- Bill Klein shared that Finances are looking improved versus a year ago. He is continuing work on the 2021 budget including further improvements to the security systems.
- 8. Other Business/Additional Comments:**
- A. Reno put forth a reminder request to committee chairs and secretaries to get their final approved (not draft) monthly committee minutes to Mary Sue Derks to be published to the parish website.
  - B. There was also discussion and a request for the secretary to send the Pastoral Council agenda as soon as it becomes available and to send the first packet no later than the Friday prior to each meeting, regardless of how many reports are available at the time.
- 9. Reminders:**
- A. There is no meeting of the Pastoral Council scheduled in December. Next meeting is 1/28/2020.
  - B. The 25<sup>th</sup> of January 8am-noon is reserved for Strategic Planning.
- 10. Once Around:** None this month.
- 11. Closing Prayer:** Sarah led the group in a closing prayer.
- 12. Adjourn:** Reno adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

**Next Pastoral Council Meeting:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7pm

**Prayer Leader:** Lois Lehmkuhl

**Visioning Update:** None

*Visioning Updates will resume in March 2020 with Stewardship*