

June 3, 2024
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Spiritus Christi Parish Community Forum

Minutes

People: 24 people attended in person 15 online - 39 total

1. Introduction of PCF Team and Parish Staff - John O’Gorman

- Staff attending
 - Lauren Urzetta, Ruth Cowing, Mike Ramich, Rev Celie, Aaron Lynch, Mark Bennett, Lisa Koegel, Amy Durkee online, Rev Myra on line
- Complaint from John about air conditioning or lack of it.

2. Opening Prayer - Matt Liston

- Completed summer solstice prayer

3. Meeting Overview and Framework - Matt Liston

4. Pastor’s Report

- Reported by Rev Celie
- Rev Myra has a flat tire she is in the auto shop
- Rev Celie reading Rev Myra report
- Fr Jim is recovering well there is a link on website to follow his progress
- 20 funerals since January
- Successful Black History Month concert and program with State Senator Sanders
- Lent soup suppers
- Friday last words
- Some of the asylum seekers are volunteering at clothing closets
- Doing weddings for them
- Lydia took over Speaking From the Heart
- Prison outreach gala was a success and celebrated the \$2 mil grant
- Caring Connection now running with Sue Bonadita
- Caregiving ministry delivered meals
- First communion

- Lauren new parishioner meeting, First Friday gathering crushed, 25th Anniversary Ball - thanks to all who volunteered to help
- Hosted Across the Miles Families weekend
- Parish picnic
- SPARK will hold 5k run on June 19
- Jazz concert at Highland Bowl June 16
- RFP was put out for the park to choose an architect for designs
- Children defense fund grant received from Women's Giving circle program and asking CDF to ask for a grant
- Olivia will start a podcast
- No Chiapas pilgrimages this year
- Changes underway for parish structure document
- Getting most visioning board members to table to discuss changes
- Finding ways to look at core values at beginning meeting at church and website

5. Grace of God Recovery House Update - Mark Bennett

- Grace of God is a recovery house for men who are in recovery
- Gave shout out to all the board members and volunteer
- Ruth Olivia Dave Gay, Linda McNally, Wayne Harrington, Pat Hart, Sue Gay takes care of the house – “Mama Sue”
- Founded in 1999 by Sr Margie celebrating our 25 year anniversary
- Mark came through the program and was chosen by Sr Margie to be next director
- Doubled the number of residence from 3 to 6
- Positive discharges have doubled in last year
- 5 residents are in house
- One of our alumni just moved into his own house with his partner
- Was able to get heat pumps and insulation, grant for energy efficient led lighting
- Add 3 new staff members who were alumni at the house
- Increased board by 3 members
- Children’s Defense Grant added Olivia as a teen
- Put focus on retention of the alumni
- Started a group for alumni to come first Thursday of the month
- Bowling changed to make it more inclusive - diversity of gender, age, ability
- Aug 16 - 5:30 bowling fundraiser - pull out phones and put it in

- Sponsoring one of the 12 steps at the house
- New this year party at the house that Olivia organized - will be August 24
- Fundraising the Angel Fund
- Car wash during the day
- Old school block party with dancing, hot dogs, ice cream
- Reveal of Angel statute
- Grace of God is a seeing a miracle going there every day

6. Homecoming Advisory Board Update

- Discussed group of HAB leaders
- Discussed history of meetings
- Not just seeing a property but looking at getting it, modifying it, moving into it and financing
- We were outbid for Prince Street property
- We are taking the time to get prepared and will be ready when a property comes into play
- Advisory board staff makes final decision
- Mike Ramich is enjoying it - he is staff liaison
- Gary and Tom made a strong pitch to look at a capital campaign approach to get a base of funds for is to use going forward
- Tom Darin to discuss capital fund
- Feeling in parish things may have been that things got quiet
- Tom and Gary clarified what their roles would be
- Putting scenarios together to see how we are doing financially and where we might be if we used cash reserves and mortgaging - what would be the rest needed
- If using cash reserves it would put church in difficult financial position
- If we did this we would deplete funds for several years
- Mortgage \$1 million would be \$80,000 annually for mortgage payments.
- 4 recommendations
 - Do not take on debt that puts church in negative cash flow
 - Do not use cash reserves for purchase of any building - cash reserves must remain as emergency fund
 - Must start a capital campaign for attempting to purchase an existing building
 - New building - to build new is too expensive for what we could raise
- Realistic purchase price would be somewhere around \$1.5 mil
- Puts us in better position to make a competitive offer

- Recommendations were presented to leadership team - decided long term debt was not an acceptable option
 - But short term debt may be necessary
 - Staff agreed to the above
 - Fundraising committee (changed from financing committee)
 - Tom went asking for advice from others who do fundraising
 - Kelly Gagan current president of Rochester Regional Health Foundation.
- Tom met with her and she met with the committee
- Determine timeline if leases run out - we would have 6 months but there is flexibility in our leases.
 - When to launch a capital campaign
 - We have talked about getting funding from external sources. Kelly said to find funding for bricks and mortar is very difficult to do
 - Timing thought now would be a good time to give an update - thought summer would not be the best time to get fundraising to start. Start around fall
 - Updates should wait until $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ of funding before report to parish
 - Not to do a thermometer raising the money
 - Most of it will be quiet phase get \$1 million before going to public campaign
 - Flexibility with what the target is
 - Given what we have seen in the marketplace what is the appropriate price should be?
- One of the thing seen when looking at churches online - you get what you pay for - if it is cheap there is a lot of work to be done
 - Third part of the campaign writing the case statement or vision statement build compelling case as to why this is important
 - We have to synthesize the message down to something all of us could say to get message across
 - Determining the capability of the donor and prospects
 - Think of giving as a pyramid top small amount of people with large gifts as you go down lots of people giving lots smaller amounts
 - Big asks come from leadership team who will be coached. If you don't ask sometimes people won't give
 - Questions
 - On budget committee - one of the things we want to say is that he thinks that we jumped to quickly on Prince street

- Roman Catholic Dioceses is in bankruptcy does the Bishop have the authority to turn us down or is that the bankruptcy judge?
- Is there coordination between fundraising and search committee?
Answer - it depends - Mike R felt that financing a major part was too big
- The house that became Nielsen house - we were searching and when we found something we then did an ask and got the money
- The original proposal was not to use all the reserve funding but a chunk of it, but this is a much better plan
- We don't know when a property will become available.
- A lot of what happens is pledges that will be given over time
- If we need to move quickly, if we have money in hand and some that is pledged
- We may need to have a sense of urgency - we realize that we may not have all the money in hand if a property comes up

7. New Business - None

8. Closing Prayer - John O'Gorman

Notetakers: Bridget Casselman

Manage Zoom: Matt Liston/Aaron Lynch