

March 11, 2024
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Spiritus Christi Parish Community Forum

Minutes

Meeting Start Time: 7:02 pm

Opening Prayer - Matt Liston

Introduction of Staff - Matt Liston

Staff Present:, Rev. Myra, Mike Ramich, Rev Celie, Mark Bennett, Aaron Lynch, Lauren Urzetta, Eileen Hurley, Amy Durkey, Ruth Cowing, Fr. Jim Callan.

Meeting Overview, Framework - Matt Liston

Numbers attending: 21 on zoom, 30 live = total 51.

Pastor's Report

- Lenten
- Ash Wed services
- Soup suppers
- Lenten speakers added young people keep with our theme of adding our children's voices
- Mike Boucher said lenten programs well attended
- SPARK
- Concert kids knocked our sock off
- State Senator
 - Put a bill forth for studying reparations
 - That work is on its way
- Stations of the Cross Rev Celie has put together
- Youth group had a fantastic retreat with 16 teens participating

- Began our finding our new home process
- Pancake Breakfast with over 100 people attending
 - Great to bring it back - now first of many

Children's Defense Fund Update

- Rev Myra, Eileen Hurley and Brigit Hurley presented on Children's Defense Fund
- 3 yr partnership
- 1st year was observing and reflecting and looking at places we had to grow and propose what project we would put forth to support children on the margins
- 2nd year strategic planning - what about our position of being church helps and hinders what we want to proceed
- 3rd implementation and assessment with the hope of changing the ecosystem to reach the goal of child well being
- Year 1
 - Listening observing
 - Investing in us as leader as pastors
 - Learned the importance of listening to children and how Jesus looked at children in his ministry seeing children as whole beings
 - 4 critical elements
 - 1. Theology must reflect the reality that young people are developing and must support them
 - 2. Young people are developing to be successful adults
 - We did a lot of work with young people
 - Brought them on as visioning board members
 - 3. Childhood should be enjoyed for itself. We decided to address poverty that ravishes the soul of children. Poverty is the 4th leading cause of death in NYS.
 - Safety connection and security are paramount to our children.
 - Surveyed VBS kids and reported.

- Created space for them to join us every Sunday as Eucharistic Minister at 9:30 mass. Youth are now asking to be ministers.
- We created 2 new youth positions on our visioning board
 - One of our youth talked to us about podcasts. Rev Myra is planning to turn them loose!
- We centered their voice by incorporating youth in our voting process for finding our new home
- We added youth speakers to our lenten series
- We purchased fidget boxes for kids and placed them at each mass. Working with our greeters to look out for that type of thing
- We are in year 2
 - Presented at a recent Tennessee conference the contextual theology of child-well being. A living water church for child wellbeing.
- The project
 - Would like to link Guaranteed Basic income project to buddy readers.
 - GBI is a stipend to people in the community that is given to recipients so that they can do what they want with it.
 - Starting with 55 families giving \$500 monthly hoping to increase to 325 families.
- History - Spiritus Christi was selected as 1 of 10 communities that were selected to be part of this project to help change the lives of children
- Questions
 - Is the funding for the next level of grants?
 - It is going to be a combination of grants from agencies, fundraisers, and public donations.
 - Poverty is the 4th leading cause of death for people, there is a push in our state to have the ultra rich pay their fair share that would eradicate poverty
 - Do you have an assessment tool to measure progress?
 - Tool is built into the plan - we are hoping to get that assessment donated in kind

- There are pages of examples of this happening all over the country
 - Every measure of how kids are thriving increase
 - All GBI programs have a research component
- Are you providing mental health support?
 - No we are providing dollars and they use that how they need
 - Sometimes it is getting money for transportation
 - There are many programs that research GBI on adults
 - WE are early in this project
- This seems like something I would be willing to apply for basic income I hope you will make that an option
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Future Home Building Search Update

- Sandy Allen and Mike Theisen reporting
- We voted to go to a ownership model
- Efforts overseen by HAB
- Made up of co-chairs and chairs from each of the committee are in the HAB
- Everyone in the parish has been invited to participate
- New form has been put up today for Holy Helpers collecting their interest availability skills
- Our current process ever evolving
- 3 phases
 - 1st phase
 - Notified that a property is available
 - Realtor sets a date time to view
 - Within 2 days team meets to decide if it should be put forward or not
 - 2nd phase
 - Space is given to admin with recommendation
 - 3rd phase
 - Our budget team working with stewardship committee to discuss amount for repairs cost of purchase

- If all committees are good then time for parish to view
- 67% vote of all parish vote to buy building
- Tom, Gary, Sally, Kathy, Bridgeet, Mike Theisen
- What happened to the Prince Street Property?
 - Our letter of intent was not accepted as there was another offer they took

Do we have the ability to make a counter offer?

- We did do a counter offer but they took the other offer

Do we have a limit?

- We let the realtor lead
- We offered the listing price
- We are still looking to find a church in an inner city neighborhood
- When we started talking about the process there was a discussion of a group needs assessment
- That was completed with staff and HAB
- We can post the form of needs assessment on the website

Have we tried to do anything with home leasing?

- We have not as of yet
- If you have suggestions future facilities would be the people to let them know
- Encourage people to look at the website as it will be updated and more detail

Is there a time frame?

We have not talked about a timeframe we need to take things as they come

- We need to not show our excitement when we tour
- Letter of intent kicks off 45 days that gives us time to do a deep dive and do our due diligence and they will not entertain other offers but not a contract to buy it
- Can't bring in other people can't do anything but initial walk through

How important is it for an initial walk through to get a good number group to walk through?

- They have talked to FF team to make sure that there are people who will be able to go through
- Can't do video during the initial walk through
- Not showing excitement as it can drive the the price up
- Bridget has done 2 live updates at all the services

New Business

- None

Closing Prayer - John O’Gorman

Notetakers: Bridget Casselman

Manage Zoom: Trevor Carney

PCF Major Decisions Process-from Structure

Parish Community Forum Facilitators:

Trevor Carney

Colleen Farley

Kim Winden

Dave Winden

Bridget Casselman

Matt Liston

John O’Gorman