

## Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council

January 12, 2020

**Members present:** Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Eric Patera (Acting Chair), and Mary Schweitzer. Char Snekvik (Chair) by speaker phone from home, Rob Cassleman by phone from Switzerland the last part of the meeting.

Also present: **Mary Sutherland**, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer.

**Commission Reports:** The Finance and Administration Commission was supposed to report in January. The mid-year financial report isn't ready yet. The commission report schedule for the rest of the year is February: Finance & Administration plus Liturgy & Worship, March: Faith Formation, April: Community & Outreach, and May: Finance & Administration.

**Staff & Volunteers update:** Faith Formation secretary Sue McNamara is retiring in the spring. There is a search underway for her replacement. And, Lucille Guettinger is retiring from 20 years of taking care of the church flowers and gardens. Fr. Steve and the staff presented Lucille with a hand blown glass rose at the staff Christmas party. We are looking for someone to take over that important volunteer area also.

**Coffee & doughnuts:** Pastoral Council hosts January 26. Mary will send out an email for sign-ups.

**Fr. Steve Spanish class:** A Spanish professor at WSU has offered to let Fr. Steve attend her class. He will look into it.

### **Building committee update:**

**Land off Wawawai Road:** The owner offered us eight acres for \$550,000. We countered with \$450,000 cash plus the owner would gift us \$100,000 to get a tax write-off, if the land was assessed at \$550,000 or more. The owner countered back asking for \$510,000 cash with a \$40,000 write-off for not quite eight acres. A week later the owner said that the maximum he can allow for a tax write off for the year is \$38,000. We can't pay that much in cash, and would also need to put in at least \$100,000 to help build the road. The building committee and finance council are meeting Tuesday, January 14, to look at all the options and discuss countering the counter offer.

**New land possibility:** Fr. Steve and Kevin Owens met with the family that is offering us land within the city limits, south of the Moscow Pullman highway (WA-270), about a mile from downtown Pullman. The mother of the family of seven adults is a parishioner. They own 380 acres and only one sibling is still farming. They want to develop a community on the property as a tribute to their mother. The plans they've been working on for 15 years take into account the needs of Pullman, and include a church, low-income retirement housing, sports fields, retail, etc. The family is offering 10 to 15 acres, but is open to including Catholic Charities low income housing, and is willing to give up to 35 acres.

The catch is that in order to develop the property a road/bridge must be built over Paradise Creek and the Chipman Trail. It will cost about \$1.2 million. The family is asking for \$50,000 per acre to help build the bridge. They cannot afford it alone. Eight acres would cost the church \$400,000.

Scott Cooper of Catholic Charities talked with Fr. Steve and Kevin. They are interested in building low-income housing in Pullman since their last project in Whitman County was Pioneer Square in 1978. Catholic Charities recently received a large gift enabling them to build housing. They will do a study for the area looking at the need for low income and retirement housing.

Electric lines go along the Chipman Trail to the property. Gas lines reach that far on the other side of the highway. There is no water supply at this point. The city has long term plans to put in a water tower. In the meantime a well would have to be drilled through the basalt that is under five feet of topsoil. The road over the bridge may eventually be developed into a south by-pass of Pullman. The land is not in the 100 year flood plain. Turning left from the property to go back into Pullman could be difficult at times.

**Feasibility study:** In December Fr. Steve signed a contract with Castellaw Kom Architects (CKA) of Lewiston for \$18,000. They are looking at costs and timelines for remodeling or rebuilding the church on site, and at the cost and timeline of building new on the Wawawai land. The new land offer will be added to the contract, which will increase the cost and timeline. The initial estimate for finishing the feasibility study was mid-February. After the study is finished and we have estimated costs at the different locations there will be a presentation for the entire parish so everyone can see the results. According to the building survey, parishioners want a quality plan that is financially realistic.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 9, 9:45 am.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland.