

Sacred Heart –Grosse Ile
Finance Committee meeting Minutes
August 20, 2020

Attendance

Mark Gilroy
Gregg Zuccker
Sue Biedlingmaier
Ken Juip
Gary Latendresse

Absent

Dennis O'Brien
Fr. Marc Gawronski

Meeting Minutes

- Ken called the meeting to order and led the committee in prayer.
- July minutes were approved.
- A discussion about the July 2020 financial results covered the fact that all are concerned with the direction of the offertory collection which has been lessening even before the impact of the pandemic. Statistics about mass attendance were quoted coincided with a steady decline over the last few years. In 2019 mass attendance was close to 600 per weekend while currently Sacred Heart is averaging between 250 and 300. The offertory budget for 2020/2021 was set at \$582,000 or \$48,500 per month. July was at \$39,000 and all agreed it will take awhile to determine whether this shortfall is temporary and mostly a Covid-19 matter or complicated by other factors. Identified factors are – reduction in Mass attendance (and presumably registrations) due to the reduced Mass schedule; Capacity limitations in the church due to Covid state restrictions; self-quarantining by those reluctant to attend any gatherings during Covid; general downward trends; aging parish.
- An entry in July for Youth Group Fundraising income of \$8,000 raised questions. Explained that this was a transfer from the prior fiscal year. Sue's explanation was that the money was collected for activities but never used due to the pandemic shutdown. Moving it to this fiscal year will allow the income and expenses to match up. Gary inquired about a cash flow report to make it easier to ensure that month to month income/expenses/reserves balance. Sue commented that this was a report already available and will add it to future monthly budget reports.
- The discussion then turned to the matter of the necessity of hiring a full-time maintenance person to be shared with St. Cyprian's. Comments were made citing that Sacred Heart has faired well with one less maintenance staff by using outside contractors to fill any voids. With many budget aspects so uncertain right now, the committee suggested delaying the hiring of any new staff until the financial situation is more stable. Most issues have been resolved by Kevin along with a host of committed and engaged volunteers who are proud to contribute to their parish. The addition of even a part time maintenance manager will adversely impact SH's finances.
- Concerns about the budget then led to a discussion about proceeding with the purchase of \$23,000 of video streaming equipment, which is an unbudgeted expenditure. Most agreed that it was a good idea but that questions about human resources to support operating this equipment are unanswered at this point. Relying on volunteers has been difficult as it relates to operating the mass screens in church. Sue stated that volunteers will be supplemented with staff.

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- The discussion then turned to the question of tearing down the storage garage between the parish center and the rectory. The garage is in deplorable shape and deemed unsafe. Much of its contents can be thrown away. It was suggested that the unused tractor and its related equipment be traded for an electric or gas utility cart to aid maintenance efforts. The cost to demolish and dispose of the garage and its no longer needed contents is at \$2,800. Gregg Zuccker is working to secure a quote for an 18' by 12' replacement. The budget includes a provision for \$7,500 to accomplish both actions. It was discussed that it would be prudent to add electricity service to the new storage garage to allow for lighting and battery charging.
- The doors in disrepair in the parish center were discussed. It was agreed to seek quotes for their repair or replacement.
- Gary asked about the status of the convent repairs. Sue responded that she was still waiting on a response from the insurers. LL Custom has submitted a quote to repair but are on hold over insurance resolution.
- Sue and Mark engaged in a review of the \$93,000 forgivable government loan and how to report the use of funds as required. All concluded that the Sacred Heart will get to keep the money.
- The matter of the possibility of no Christmas Eve masses was discussed as a financial concern. Sue allowed that Fr. Marc was also aware and concerned and that he will seek a solution. Gregg added that Worship discussed the issue and will probably hire a priest to help manage Christmas masses
- Lastly, the matter of being allowed to seat more than 50% of the church capacity (239 at 6') was discussed. The possibility of adding 40 to 50 chairs in the Gathering Space is under consideration.
- There being no other topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
- The youth minister position is still open with no responses to the job opening to date.

Gary P. Latendresse
Secretary