

Sacred Heart –Grosse Ile
Finance Committee meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021

Attendance

Sue Beidlingmaier
Mark Gilroy
Gregg Zuccker
Ken Juip
Dennis O'Brien
Gary Latendresse

Absent

Fr. Marc Gawronski

Zoom Meeting Minutes

- Ken called the meeting to order and opened with a hopeful Covid inspired reading.
- There being no comments regarding the meeting minutes from the January 2021 meeting, they were declared approved.
- Comments regarding the February Budget Report were also resolved prior to the meeting via e-mail.
- **Update on Potential Sale of Various Parcels of Property-**
 - Gary reported that to-date none of the eight Developer / Contractors that had been contacted have responded. Gary opined that conversations with a couple of contractors disclosed that there are many concerns including the high cost and availability of lumber, building materials and appliances coupled with a lack of reliable and capable laborers and the hassle caused by the bridge closure that are making development anywhere difficult and more so on Grosse Ile because of the bridge closure. Mark concurred as he was hearing the same from other businesses. The expectation is that we will not make any significant progress on the sale of assets until that situation changes.
- **Family of Parishes (FOP)**
 - Although not in attendance, Fr. Marc shared that there will be three virtual gatherings within the FOP between April and August and that the dates will be announced next week. These gatherings will be focused on the process of Encounter, Grow and Witness, as we prepare to move forward as a Family of Parishes (FOP).
 - Fr. Marc also stated that he will let everyone know when he is able to name members to the FOP Committee. This matter will be discussed next week with the other pastors before anyone is named to the two FOP consultative bodies.
 - Further sharing of resources / assets (personnel, facilities, finances) will be the topic of a future meeting to address our income shortfall. Per Sue, both Sue and Mary are spending some time helping out at St Joes, but have not cut back their time at SH.
 - The 2021/22 budget development process will begin in a few weeks. As income continues to trend down and we may not receive another PPP forgivable loan, it will be a challenge to balance income vs expenses.
- **Giving Garden**-Gregg then led a discussion regarding the potential relocation of the Giving Garden. He reported that given the recent upgrade and investments in the Giving Garden, the he believes leaving it where it is absent a definitive offer from a developer that would require it to be relocated, it should stay where it is. In fact, all thought carving out a parcel of land that would include the road between the rectory and the parish center that includes the Giving Garden and storage shed should not be offered for sale at all. The garden has incurred considerable financial investment, and more importantly considerable "sweat equity" by a large number of parishioners. The garden has become a parish treasure and point of pride.

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- Lastly, there was little support among the committee members to include the parcel that includes the baseball field in the sale offering until we have done a more exhaustive due process on the potential use of that land by the parish and/or local/township organizations.
- **New PPP Loan Eligibility / Employee Retention Program**-Mark Gilroy reported that his analysis concluded that Sacred Heart does not qualify for a second PPP Loan. He went on to report that recent announcements concerning the Employee Retention Plan was more hopeful and that we should continue to monitor revenue comparisons between the quarters of 2019 and the quarters of 2021 (through to the last quarter of the calendar year) to see if we meet the 25% income reduction criteria to qualify.
- **Mass Attendance Tracking**
 - Gregg then reported that attendance is still down averaging 65% lower as compared to 2019. He believes that not having a Saturday afternoon mass is definitely causing a significant reduction and that the Sunday afternoon mass is not effective. He is in favor of a Saturday mass at Sacred Heart and St. Cyprian's.
 - Sue stated that the idea of a Sunday mass was thought best to accommodate having a Youth Mass but absent a Youth Director, that aspect has not materialized.
 - Gregg stated attendance at the Sunday afternoon mass is averaging only 50% of what our Saturday mass experience was prior to its removal.
 - Gregg agreed to trend our Mass attendance and add experiences from the other 17 churches in our vicariate re the days/times for weekend Masses.
 - This led to a discussion about advertising the capability to electronically text donations to Sacred Heart during or after the mass at an appropriate time. Sue stated we have that capability to text/give but that it is not widely known or used. It was suggested that a reminder could be announced during the appropriate time at Mass.
- **Gathering Space Roof / Soffit Repairs**
 - The soffits and the roof of the Gathering Space have exceeded their useful life and continued delays on addressing both of these problems is no longer an option. Sue was asked to secure updated / new bids for this work. Gary had already secured a quote from Kearns Brothers Roofing in 2018 that needs to be updated. Molnar and Holbrook Roofing were suggested as two other bid candidates. Since bees were probably part of the cause for the soffit damage, Mark and Gregg recommended a service that will spray for bees twice a year. Sue will contact them for a continuing service.
 - Gary mentioned that it won't be long before both the church and rectory will require new roofs and that it is not likely than can be funded absent a capital campaign. That statement raised the question about whether the AOD prohibition against capital campaigns was still in force.
- **Dennis O'Brien Departure from Sacred Heart**-Ken announced that Dennis is planning to relocate to Indiana in the upcoming months and thanked him for his service to the Finance Committee and Sacred Heart for many years. The rest of the committee joined in and thanked him profusely. Members were asked to consider parishioners that Fr Marc could consider to replace Dennis and forward those names to Ken.

There being no other topics to discuss, the meeting was ended with a prayer.

Gary P. Latendresse
Secretary

4/26/21