

## **St Dominic - Minutes from Parish Pastoral Council meeting of July 12, 2022 6:30pm: Devney-Hughes meeting room**

**Attendees:** Father Gregory Abbott, Father Louie Floeder, Chris Barth (trustee), Dick Seuss (volunteer Maintenance Committee Chair and maintenance mechanic), Richard Schulte (volunteer maintenance mechanic, and PPC members: Matt Stenzel, Erica Maker, Dave Antonneau

### **Proceedings**

Began with prayer in the chapel, then moved to Devney-Hughes meeting room where we briefly reflected on Sunday Gospel during prayer.

### **Unfinished business**

**PPC Constitution and By-Laws:** no further action was taken. Will focus on this effort further at August PPC meeting.

### **New Business:**

Chair handed the floor to Richard Schulte, a parishioner that requested agenda time to speak with the PPC. Richard asked the group for guidance as to what the process is to have action taken on several areas noted in the agenda. He has brought some items to the attention of parish members but had not heard back, and wanted to know how to approach questions and concerns he encounters. Some of the topics Richard touched on included:

- School building
  - Examples: concerns regarding heating/boiler system and air exchange system as well as a recent office redesign approach.
- Church buildings
  - Examples: furnace alternatives in light of anticipated City of Northfield energy reduction goals and Pope Francis' Laudato Si. Also questioned the use of the Youth Building given the expenses incurred and its apparent infrequent use.

His primary concern was about the process to be used to move forward with the needs of the school facility, and the church as well. He felt that things are sometimes operating in 'silos' and suspected that was a source to some of his frustration in moving ahead. Richard noted that some issues he's identified need to be addressed with some urgency. Richard asked about his notice of the lack of St Dominic school students attending weekend masses. Fr. Gregory commented that other Catholic parishes experience a similar struggle of students not attending Sunday Mass. The school has begun to reach out Latino families, noting that Latino families represent a growing population in our Church.

Dick Seuss noted that he had made contacts with local contractors about issues that Richard was asking about. For example, regarding the heating system, Dick has received a commitment from local contractors to get the project addressed in August.

The question was asked about the whereabouts and status of a list of projects that had been created some time ago. Dick volunteered to try to locate the list, and agreed that it should be reviewed and updated to reflect current projects status. He can work with Richard, and others as needed, to ensure projects are updated and added to the list as necessary. It will serve as a means to track and manage status of projects.

PPC also agreed that review and approval for funding of projects should occur within the Parish Finance Council. The PPC is not to be the approval body going forward. Alternatives were discussed about

funding the school boiler maintenance. Chris suggested that one approach could be that the school and church split the cost in some way.

Other topics were touched on including the importance of stewardship, how we might tap into Catholic Mutual for guidance on managing scheduled maintenance, and the enhanced role of Trustees in recent years vs the ideal.

### **Director of Operations update**

A Director of Operations Feasibility Team is being formed to help develop a proposal for a Director of Operations position. Thus far Erica, Chris and Steve Zastera (Annunciation trustee) are serving on this team.

### **Outreach Minister duties**

Father Gregory provided a list of the various duties and activities performed by the Outreach Minister prior to his retirement. For those areas where the activities will continue, a person/persons have volunteered to take on the activity. Two notable exceptions are Videographers and the Mission Trip. The Mission Trip is likely to be reimagined to take on a different form. Fr Gregory is working on obtaining volunteers for both of these areas currently and invited the names of parishioners that might be good candidates.

### **Welcome retreat**

Father Gregory provided a brief update. The planning efforts for the October retreat weekends continues with the retreat team actively devoting time and energy. It is hoped that it will serve as an inspiration to all attendees that will ultimately help reinvigorate enthusiasm of our Catholic faith and have a spillover positive effect in the life of the parish and it's parishioners.

### **Adjournment at 8:20pm**

#### **Attachments:**

- PPC Agenda 7-12-22

Minutes submitted by Dave Antonneau

*Followup note: post meeting, as an aid for Richard and others, Dave volunteered to work to provide clarity by locating and/or documenting a process to follow with projects as they are identified.*

Kindly note these dates for upcoming PPC Meeting dates (6:30-8pm). All are welcome. We begin in the chapel, then move to the Devney-Hughes meeting room:

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15