

Pastoral Council Minutes
November 18, 2013
Parish Hall
DRAFT #1

Attendees: Jennifer Bovitz, Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Martha Kearns, Walt Moore, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with prayer. The minutes of the 9/20/2013 meeting were approved.

Facilities

Trees in front of church - Jimmy Carrick

- Recommends cutting down bald cypress trees in front of church because roots have caused the sidewalk to break and become uneven, increasing the likelihood of people falling, recurrent damage to the roof due to needles packing the gutters, and creating the possibility of roots growing under the foundation of the rotunda and causing damage
- Repair sidewalk and concrete areas where trees are currently planted
- Install planters or pots, and plant trees in them to solve problem of root damage in future
- After discussion, the members of the Council agreed with the recommendation and suggested the following strategies
 - Announce in bulletin and seek input/suggestions about dealing with the problem
 - Consult landscape design people in community (e.g., Scott Davis, Sid Mullis)

Clergy Housing

- Fr. Charlie – Probably return to Cincinnati in 3-4 months
- Fr. Tom Healy – might be interested in making SMOTH his retirement home
- If Fr. Jerry moves next summer, consider whether or not to sell condo; Fr. Jerry and Fr. Jim very much appreciated having the “personal space”

School Commission Report – Rhee Fincher

Budget

- Grace scholarships - \$50,000 in 2013 (decrease from 2012); strive to increase in 2014
- SMS tuition and fees recommendation for AY 2015; Commission recommends increasing registration fees to \$350/student which will yield \$22,000 (Registration fee at Aquinas is \$800). The proposal will be presented at the November 19 Finance Commission meeting.
- Revenue from stewardship is not increasing

School carnival

- Overall conclusion is that the event was very successful

Fostering Continuum of Catholic education

Nursery project report

- This effort was stimulated by the desire to foster a continuum of Catholic education, beginning with the nursery and Mother’s Day Out, and continuing through SMS and Aquinas. Ruth Ann Vericella visited the nursery during a 10:30 Mass and interviewed many parents. The following recommendations resulted:
 - More attention to cleanliness

- Enhance supervision – Consider starting ministry of women without young children who would be willing to help at nursery
- Use of space - Open separate room for younger children
- Documentation of families using the nursery: Correct dates; directory of people who participate (kept by director of MDO). Ashley Poteet was suggested as a good person to organize nursery? (Recommended by Sarah; Fr. Jerry will follow-up)

MDO – Gina Crow Gina Crow runs MDO and is involved with nursery – Invite her to a subsequent School Commission meeting to ask how School Commission can help her with MDO as part of an educational continuum

Purpose, review of bylaws committees, potential changes to better focus the Commission

Purpose

- SC functions in an advisory capacity to support principal and pastor, policy, marketing, and an understanding of stewardship
- Plan to disband some of the committees in bylaws and focus on:
 - Marketing
 - Stewardship
 - Stewardship formation should be an important role of the SC (not discussing stewardship issues with individual families).
 - In the past, regularly scheduled meetings were held to educate parents about stewardship formation and how critical stewardship is to support our school. Consider restarting
- Help carry out long-range plans
- Foster continuum of Catholic education
- Review budget and advise principal on it, including ways to save money and not hurt quality

When there is agreement on the committees,

- The committees will be constituted. The chair should be a member of the Commission, but membership should include both SC members and non-members who have particular expertise in the area.
- Each committee will develop 2 lists of goals and objectives – (1) 12-18-month range and (3) 3-4-year range. The proposals will be reviewed at the subsequent SC meeting and endorsed after discussion and modification if needed.

Pastor's Varia

- Personnel
 - Fr. Avery – Indictment has come from Grand Jury; there will be a scheduled hearing before a judge; after the hearing he likely will have to surrender his visa and leave the country; attorney is trying to get charge reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor
 - Fr. Lou Lindsey – senior priest will be in area
 - Fr. Dave Arnoldt and Fr. Michael Hull (St. Ignatius) are committed to helping parish
- Lenten Mission – Ennie Hickman, prominent speaker at Steubenville conference, will be the featured SMOTH Lenten mission speaker and spend time at Aquinas
- 100 years of Catholic education – great success
- Year of Faith concludes this Sunday with pilgrimage from Most Holy Trinity to DeSoto Memorial and them back to Most Holy Trinity for an ice cream social

- Strong Catholic Families Strong Catholic Youth going well
 - Families want a missionary outreach – will be scheduled a couple times/year

Using bond collateral to set up endowment fund – Jim Purcell - Purpose discussion ongoing

- Source of funding is not solely from education and many would like purpose to be broader than education. This desire could be addressed by defining education more broadly than SMS – and supporting RCIA and formation activities (conferences) in addition to SMS
- Consider preserving 10% of fund as a tithe

Need to address non-functioning Commissions – no further discussion at the meeting

- Stewardship
- Community and Pastoral Care
- Service

Invitation: Members of the Pastoral Council are invited to a drop-in at Fr. Jerry's condo on Sunday, 12/29/2013 from 4:30-6:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher
Recorder

The remainder of the Pastoral Council meetings for FY 2014 will be:

January 27
February 24
March 24
May 19
June 23