

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, Part II
March 18, 2007
4:00 PM, Ark Room

Attendees: Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Tony Acuna, Julie Dulac, Bob Guzik, Karen Moss, Dan Muckensturm, Jose Rodriguez, Yolanda Rodriguez, Karen Stonecipher, Bill Stewart, and Rob Taylor.

Absent: Nicholas Alberts, Norm Brennecke, Lorraine Chambers, and Brett Ensor.

Father Bob opened the meeting with prayer.

Space Subcommittee Report—continued

Julie Dulac asked the Space Subcommittee to continue their report from the March 5 PPC meeting. Yolanda Rodriguez, subcommittee chair, reviewed that the subcommittee had agreed to short-term and long-term goals to better the “space” situation in the parish. If the Damascus entrance is not addressed, the subcommittee will recommend leasing space for the Faith Formation and/or Youth Ministry. The Space Subcommittee is looking to the PPC and the parishioners to see which alternative is best.

Members of the subcommittee researched short-term leasing options. One option presented is a warehouse space off of Townsend. Members found the facility may be suitable for our needs, but is located in a poorly lit area, and would bring safety concerns at night. Other alternatives include:

- Revisit leasing space from HCA
- Leasing space from a nearby elementary
- Research leasing from the red-bricked facility next to Hobby Lobby (by the car wash)

Members of the subcommittee have also researched long-term goals, which fall into a tentative 6-year plan:

- Purchase 3.22 acres off of Townsend (different from the property with the warehouse) for approximately \$435,000 on which a facility could be built
- Purchase 2.88 acres, off of Ridge Road, close to Brookshire’s for approximately \$753,000 on which we could build a facility
- Purchase 4 acres for approximately \$832,000. This property is located on Yellowjacket, behind Hobby Lobby, where the soccer field is located.

Yolanda reiterated that feedback from parishioners and council members is vital to see which option; both short-term and long-term would be the best for our parish.

Father Bob suggested that the parish (through the Finance Council) get in contact with Heritage Christian Academy to see if we can lease all or part of their facility on Sunday. In addition, he added that the following should also be discussed with HCA:

1. See if OLOL can use the “loop” around their property as a thoroughfare by the city for use.

2. Discuss the possibility of OLOL cutting through the drainage ditch at the top of the hill with a drive that would connect to their “loop” and offer additional driving options for parishioners on Sunday.
3. Lease their entire facility on Sundays—including parking—with the possibility to rent storage space on the property for Faith Formation/Youth Ministry supplies. This would allow them access to storage so supplies would not need to be transported back and forth to the church each week.
4. Determine if HCA would be interesting in selling the property that they own directly across from Damascus.

A council member asked if HCA would consider selling their facility at a much lower price (to include demolition). It was recommended that the subcommittee discuss this with the Finance Council. Given the relationship with members of the Finance Council and HCA, it would be wise ask them to be the lead agents in approaching HCA for discussion.

The Parking/Access Subcommittee indicated in this discussion that they had uncovered the future plan for Justin Road. In this plan, it shows Justin with 2 lanes. City officials indicated that a light would probably be placed at this intersection with 205. Father Bob asked if there is a possibility that Justin could be increased to a 3 lane road to include a turn-lane. Tony Acuna indicated that City Officials thought this would be an option, but we needed to discuss it with TX DOT officials for a final determination.

A member of the council asked if the subcommittee had discussed the possibility of purchasing small parcels of land rather than larger parcels. The subcommittee indicated that yes, they had researched the various ideas, and felt that smaller parcels were accessible in the short radius of the church. Larger parcels would need to be further away from the church location to be feasible to purchase.

Discussion took place on whether or not our current sanctuary could hold the growing population of parishioners. Father Bob indicated that expansion of the Sanctuary might be possible, by relocating the choir area. As well, pews could be added to the back of the church, the halls could be removed, and pews could be added to all sides. An idea was also given to extend the church to the grassy areas outside the Sanctuary to increase seating. All ideas presented could be acted upon given the facility remains structurally sound.

After discussion, members of the council recommended that the subcommittee meet with the Finance Council to report their findings and investigations. At this time, the subcommittee could present their short-term and long-term solutions. Yolanda will email Anthony Delarosa to request a presentation at the March 28th Finance Council Meeting.

Liaison Reports—continued

Dan Muckensturm reported that the all is well with the Usher Ministry. Ellen Stelmar, ministry leader, indicated that she was working to increase the number of blue usher jackets. These jackets are typically purchased for about \$15 from Helping Hands. Dan reported budget concerns and needs to Anthony Delarosa, Finance Council chairman. Dan will follow up with Ellen in the next few weeks to ensure that the ministry’s needs have been addressed.

Dan also reported that he was working towards a full report of the Altar Server ministry. Royce Zapotek, ministry leader, told Dan that he would be in discussion with Father Bob regarding a reward system for the servers. Dan will follow up with Royce to check on progress.

Bob Guzik reported that all is going well with the Sacristy Ministry. Some assistance is needed, and Gail Swinson, ministry leader, is working on compiling a list of persons who may wish to assist. Bob also inquired about the votive candles for Gail. Another council member, who supervises replacement and cleaning of the votives, indicated that volunteers are always welcomed with cleaning or replacement. All help and assistance is much appreciated. This council member would continue supervision of the votives. The sometimes limited number of volunteers to help did not pose a problem in completing the task.

Bob Guzik also indicated is working on contacting Jane Seifer regarding the Environment Ministry.

Tony Acuna reported that he had spoken with Rosalba Hernandez regarding Ministry to the Spanish-Speaking. Tony shared many of Rosalba's frustrations, and the solutions that were being implemented to better each situation. Rosalba is working closely with Father Bob and Ken Swinson to set up a ministry structure that will parallel the Anglo structure. Council members noted that it was important for ministry leaders, regardless of their native language, to be present at training sessions and meetings for their respective ministries. The presence of these leaders is important to begin the process of implementing this "parallel" structure.

Pastoral Planning Subcommittee Report

Father Bob indicated that two council members, Julie Dulac and Karen Moss had volunteered to participate in the Pastoral Planning Subcommittee. Father Bob will present his ideas for this subcommittee to the Finance Council. He will ask a member of the Finance Council to be a part of this subcommittee.

Ash Wednesday

Father Bob reported that this year's Ash Wednesday schedule was not as successful as anticipated. In sharing, he noted that a large percentage of the population who attends Ash Wednesday Mass would prefer the times from 5:00-7:30 PM.

The Staff suggested that we have a 5:30 PM Faith Formation sponsored distribution of ashes, which would be geared towards Faith Formation families. Council member noted that if this was done, only one mass could logistically be held in the evenings, at 7:15 or 7:30 PM. This Mass would need to be a Spanish Mass, as the early morning Spanish Mass was not well-attended this year.

Council reflected that the reality of the situation was that we had only one pastor, and he is able to hold only 3 Masses on this day. Our parish also has 2 language communities that need to be served on this day.

The Council discerned ways to serve all parishioners. The possibility of distribution of ashes/liturgy of the word celebrations was discussed. The idea was suggested that these be held periodically throughout the day. Council members were uncertain these would be attended, as they would not be at the “optimum” times. Suggestion was made to hold distribution/liturgy sessions downstairs in the Holy Family Center during the evening times. Parking would be an issue if these sessions were held simultaneously with a mass upstairs in the Sanctuary.

The Council proposed the following schedule for Ash Wednesday, 2008:

- 6:30 AM—Bilingual Mass
- 12:00 PM—English Mass
- 4:00 PM—Faith Formation sponsored Liturgy of the Word/Distribution of Ashes (English)
- 6:00 PM—English Mass
- 8:00 PM—Liturgy of the Word/Distribution of Ashes (Spanish)

Father Bob indicated that he will discuss this schedule with the Staff to get their feedback. As well, Council members agreed to pursue feedback from parishioners regarding this possible Mass schedule. The issue will be revisited at the April PPC meeting.

Comments by Father Bob

Father Bob presented a revised Organizational Chart for OLOL. He indicated the new organizational structure was in preliminary stages. He asked for input and suggestions regarding possible staff reorganization and revisions.

Father Bob also indicated that the Safe Environment Committee recommended the discontinuation of the Angels on Wheels ministry because of Risk Management prohibitions. The Safe Environment Committee suggested that advertisements for the Rockwall public transportation system (KART) be placed on the back of the bulletin to meet the needs of parishioners in the community who would have formerly used the Angels on Wheels program.

Concerns of Parishioners

A parishioner noted that Father Bob made an announcement regarding important news in PPC minutes and changes to Faith Formation, but the parishioner did not find anything new on the bulletin board, or in the bulletin. The bulletin contained information regarding the adjournment of the March 5 PPC meeting and its continuation on March 18. Julie Dulac reported that the March Council Minutes had been posted on the bulletin board just prior to the meeting on the 18th. Parishioners could begin viewing them the following weekend. Julie apologized for the delay.

Some feedback was given regarding the possibility of revising the Faith Formation schedule and eliminating Sunday Faith Formation sessions. Parishioners were interested in understanding why this was being considered. The communicating council member indicated that due to limitations in space and parking at the church facility and changes in the Faith Formation curriculum, eliminating Sunday sessions was a wise option.

A council member brought up that a significant amount of dust was accumulating on the roof of the choir area, as well as on the white beams above the altar. Cleaning these beams might need to be an option in the near future. Father Bob will check with David Rosatto, facilities manager, regarding specifics to cleaning these areas.

A church visitor indicated that it was odd that our church had no cry room. Father Bob stated that presently “cry rooms” are against church environment guidelines. Our diocese is especially particular regarding this stance. Council members inquired about other parishes that had cry rooms. Father Bob reported that in these parishes the cry rooms were established prior to the issuing of the environment guidelines.

A parishioner reported that a changing table would be a valuable asset to the upstairs bride’s room. Council discussed the possibility of installing a changing table upstairs. Though changing tables were in both downstairs restrooms, parishioners who utilize them lose a lot of mass-time traveling downstairs. Council members thought the idea of a changing table would benefit young families in the parish. As well, suggestion was made to place a Diaper Genie near the changing table to encourage parishioners to dispose diapers in a responsible fashion. Father Bob suggested that David Rossato be contacted to apprise him of the Council's recommendation and strength of feeling regarding the topic. Julie will contact Lorraine Chambers, David’s liaison and ask her to speak to David.

PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for March

The Parish Council and the Finance Council will host hospitality/donuts March 25, 2007. The following PPC and Finance Council members volunteered to serve:

8:00 AM: Julie Dulac, Diane Gonzales, Bonnie Klein, and Karen Moss

10:30 AM: Norm Brennecke, Mary Johnson, Yolanda Rodriguez, and Rob Taylor

Snacks/Closing Prayer for April PPC Meeting

Julie reminded Rob Taylor that he was assigned to snacks for the April 2 PPC meeting. As well, Jose or Emma Rodriguez is assigned to do a closing prayer.

April Agenda Items

Topics for the April PPC meeting were discussed. Priorities for this meeting include:

- Subcommittee Reports
 - Access/Parking
 - Space
 - Town Hall Meeting
 - Pastoral Planning
- Ministry Liaison Reports
- Second Sacramental Program—Kelly Colbert/Beth Wright
- Time Changes to Children’s Faith Formation—Beth Wright
- Ash Wednesday, 2008
- Building April Agenda
 - Comments by Father Bob
 - Report Concerns of Parishioners
 - PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for April
 - May Agenda Items/April Bulletin Notes

March Bulletin Notes

Items for March Bulletin Notes were suggested:

- April 2 Agenda

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.