

Church of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish Administrative Council
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Berni Schwaegerl, Luann Sieben, Sheri Lapatka, Steve Maher, and Mary Nordstrom.

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to our AFC vision. Our minutes from January and today's agenda was approved as printed.

Pastor's Report:

- This coming Sunday, 19 children will receive their First Communion at Our Lady of the Lakes, and one more will receive his on Sunday, May 10.
- Holy week went very well in the area
- Financially, we are doing well; people have been very generous.
- Over Lent, Parish Consultation meetings were held in Lake Lillian and Kandiyohi to help discern their futures. We will look at scheduling meetings in Willmar and Spicer in the Fall.
- Once we start the Summer Mass schedule, as has happened the last two years, one English Mass will be cut on Sunday morning in Willmar, and the Mass will be at 9:30. In the Fall, when that Mass is added back, we will eliminate one Saturday evening Mass and St. Patrick and St. Thomas More will alternate Sunday morning Masses.

Committee Reports:

There were no comments regarding the Area Committee reports.

Finance Reports:

We reviewed the Finance reports.

Information Items:

- Father Steve will celebrate his 25th anniversary of his ordination this June. The Sunday, June 14 9:30 am Mass in Willmar will be a Mass of

Thanksgiving for this occasion and coffee/juice and doughnuts will follow. Members of all parishes are invited to attend this Mass/celebration.

- Mass honoring high school graduates will be on Sunday, May 31.

Discussion Items

- Parish/AFC Budget for 2015-2016: The AFC budget is being presented to the Area Stewardship Committee on Thursday, May 7. This will determine each parish's assessment to the AFC so that the parish budgets can be created. OLOL will increase its tithing to 6% for the year beginning July 1, 2015.
- Garbage shed: Kel Torkelson, along with several other Knights, presented a proposal by the Knights of Columbus to build a garage where the current garbage enclosure is located (approximately 15 feet from the west handicapped-sidewalk to the entrance to the church).
 - The KCs would donate the labor and have applied for a grant for the cost of the materials (approximately 16-18k). The only cost to the parish would be electricity, insurance, and maintenance (which should be minimal).
 - It would be as close of a match as possible to the garage at the northwest corner of the lot – 24x24 with one-quarter of it separated for the garbage and recycling cans. The remainder of the building would be used for storage.
 - There would be two separate garage doors, openers, and key-pads. The garbage company would have the code to the opener to get the garbage out.
 - We would store the extra tables and chairs that are currently being stored in the other garage.
 - There was considerable discussion by the council while the KCs were present as well as after they had left the meeting. Some concerns:
 - Do we really want a garage that close to the church building?
 - One thought was that maybe it could be put just to the north side of the church so that it isn't visible. That would require additional concrete/paving and shoveling to access it.

- Would another location be better?
- What are we storing? Tables and chairs.
 - How often do we use them? Not very often; parishioners borrow them for graduation and other receptions. Some of the tables were used for the Fall Festival, but Catholic United Financial donated new tables in December so that we wouldn't need to use the heavy ones.
 - The chairs that are in there are old folding chairs. When we purchased the black chairs now in the Gathering Area, the original intent was that they would be used to replace folding chairs in classrooms, as well as for overflow crowds in church. Because the newer chairs are narrower, we ended up using them around the tables in the Gathering Space so that eight chairs could fit easier.
- Will the garbage company be ok with having to open a garage door to get to the cans?
 - Berni checked with West Central Sanitation, and they have no official policy, but believe that the current people are ok with it.
- What is the real issue we are trying to resolve – garbage or storage?
 - Originally, it was garbage; now it seems to be storage.
 - Could we get a small pre-built shed to house the garbage instead of a 24x24 garage?
 - If it is storage, should we at least investigate other building needs that could incorporate storage as well as serve other needs in the parish?
 - We don't want to build a garage and then 5 years from now not be able to address other needs because of where we put the garage.
- A greater concern than storage and garbage needs to be getting people to come to Mass; we need to be evangelizing and investing in ways that might help younger people want to come

to church; perhaps with video equipment, projection screens, etc...

- Before we could begin, a project of this scope would require approval from the Diocesan Committee on Parishes, Building Committee, College of Consultors and the Bishop.
- Father Steve will contact Kel and let him know that the PAC is not in favor of the proposal as it stands – location, size, usage; and also feels that we need to look at long-term needs as well as the current short-term need to address the fence around the garbage cans.
- We also discussed getting rid of the old tables and chairs that the parish doesn't use any longer. Berni will check with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to see if they have a need for folding chairs.
- Dishwasher: CCW presented a bid for a new dishwasher for the kitchen. CCW donated proceeds from last year's Fall Festival to be designated for kitchen upgrades.
 - The current dishwasher has had several repairs in the last year and needs to be replaced.
 - There was discussion about trying to get a counter-top model, but this would have required an extensive remodel of the kitchen.
 - The dishwasher they have a proposal for is raised 16" off the floor, which will help a little in lifting the trays.
 - The proposal was approved and Carol will order the unit.
 - The CCW also purchased a counter-top ice maker. It makes a batch of ice every seven minutes. Groups making ice need to bring in bottled water.
 - Father Steve also commented that St. Mary's is in the process of purchasing Corelle Ware to replace their heavy dishes. Would OLOL also like to consider that so that the racks out of the dishwasher are lighter? There was enough in the money from the Fall Festival to cover that as well as the dishwasher.
 - Yes; Mary will have Helaine order 250 place settings at the same time she places the order for St. Mary's.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, May 26 at 5:15 pm