



Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 7:00 pm

Council Members Present: Father Peter Wittman, Father Erik Lundgren, Julie Bennett, Don Beno, Anna Brekke, Mark Bury, Tom Dyrhaug, Kathy Kupfer, Brian Luce, Roxanne Pieper, Carter Sharp, Marco Soto, Greg Stoks, John Weckman

Trustees: Fred Jurewicz, Dick Stoks

Absent: Brian Kane

Guests: Jeff Thuringer, Mike Warmka, Jim Weiland (Finance Council members); other parishioners

Opening Prayer: Father Wittman

Meeting Purpose and Agenda: Kathy Kupfer

This special meeting has the following objectives:

- Review current rectory space and discuss rental potential.
- Discuss advantages, disadvantages and costs associated with relocating staff to the offices at St. Mark's.

To accomplish these objectives, the meeting will proceed as follows:

- Tour the St. Mark's School Building and office space. Gain insight into current and potential uses.
- Review staff perspective on the pros, cons, and costs related to moving to the St. Mark's building.
- Review benefits and rationale of locating parish offices at St. Mark's.
- Conduct open discussion. If recommendations are made, Father has the authority to accept or reject any proposals.

Staff Perspective of Relocating Offices: Julie Bennett

Julie reviewed several documents related to staff comments and costs related to a move:

- The Pros and Cons of moving the parish staff from the CEC to St. Mark's, as created by the parish staff.
- IT costs associated with this potential relocation.
- Clarifying questions were responded to:
 - The parish owns the CEC and thus, all equipment.
 - The quoted IT costs include phone equipment and a new server. It was clarified that the server needs upgrading, regardless of whether or not the move occurs. The quote was therefore based on the needs of staff coming into "new" space.

Staff Move to St. Mark's Building: Greg Stoks

Greg reviewed the St. Mark's site planning document, which included:

- Rationale for why the parish staff was initially located at the CEC.

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

- A list of reasons why this situation should be revisited (e.g., limited space at the CEC, the desire to better utilize existing resources and the lack of privacy at the school, etc.).
- Blueprints showing existing space at St. Mark's.
- The recommendation that the "For Sale" sign at St. Mark's is removed due to current use of the space, lack of potential buyers and recent upgrades to the building.
- Rationale for why both priests should move to the St. Mark's rectory. The rectory at St. Mary's is more rentable/sellable and has more space. The rectory at St. Mark's could be upgraded.

Open Discussion

- Discussion initially focused on both priests moving to St. Mark's rectory.
Action: Father Wittman declined the recommendation at this time. Further analysis is necessary to determine if the rectory at St. Mark's can be rented.
- The CEC is a corporation and owned by the parish. Parish staff currently pays monthly rent to share this space. It was discussed that this line item should be labeled "school subsidy" rather than rent.
- It was noted some parishioners don't like to access parish staff at the CEC. It can be noisy, doors are locked, and the space is not very private.
- Relocating staff at St. Mark's could be part of the healing process the parish needs to undergo since the merge.
- Several teachers expressed the desire to have staff move in order to free up additional space for the school.
- It would be difficult for Faith Formation to move because offices, supplies and classrooms would be in different locations.
- Parish staff have a high degree of interaction with school staff, which would make a move challenging.
- Our priests have a strong presence at SACs. Having two offices would not be as efficient as the current arrangement.
- It was stated that members of the Hispanic community found the CEC access intimidating. They better identify with St. Mark's since this is their community base.
- It was suggested we have limited office hours at the St. Mark's site to better accommodate all parish needs.

Action: Although no final recommendation on the move was reached, the need to focus on our Mission and create a strategic plan was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to initiate a parish planning process. Parish and Finance Council chairs will further explore this potential initiative.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Kupfer