

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Oct 10, 2008 Minutes taken by Karen Harrison

Present: Michelle Anderson, Father Bill Breslin, James Cavanagh, Melissa Haapala,
Karen Harrison (staff), Pam Jackimiec, Joe Kubler, Tommy Lorden, Catalina Mendez,
Randy Middleton, Pat Palaich Absent: Betty Jancosek, Neil Schiffhauer

Randy Middleton gave a capsule history of the TAG Team (Trusted Advisors Group), which had a financial focus to start; their scope grew as they encountered larger issues. The TAG Team paid attention to what to do about financial/organizational problems, not so much to what caused them: They needed to know how we got where we were.

Their dual focus on revitalization and sustainability led to deciding on a reconstitution of the parish leadership groups. They determined to move to a model of volunteer-based leadership.

There was some mistrust of the decision-making process, so one important aspect of the new organization is for parishioners to know that the pastor has wise counsel from trusted advisors, people of mature faith. The Pastoral Council is charged with paying attention to the spiritual health as well as the financial health of the parish.

Most important is recognizing that the School and the Church are both part of the Parish, not that they are separate. A new organizational chart shows various areas of ministry.

In the past, the budget was overly optimistic on the revenue side and expenses weren't adjusted for actual revenue. Now the responsible parish organizations need to determine how to grow, how to manage resources including money. Training of staff and lay leaders by the Archdiocese is already taking place.

The School Advisory Council (SAC) was formed to furnish leadership in strategic issues and provide ongoing oversight.

The Finance Council (FC) delves deeply into money matters. The Pastoral Council (PC) needs to observe overall, ask tough questions. Both are OF the PARISH: FC to make Parish sustainable, PC to make Parish *thrive*.

Michelle Anderson provided a /brief financial update: Expenditures projected a \$47K loss for the fiscal year. The final numbers are in progress and revenues are being projected very conservatively. While the parish had substantial debt going into the fiscal year, we are now almost current on expenses. Each member of the Finance Council is charged w/oversight of a specific element of operation.

From around the table ---

Questions asked on the organization chart: Where's the School Marketing Committee? Evangelization? How/where/when is it to be published? The chart should be available to all.

Melissa: We need to build something into the organizational structure for appropriate/frequent meetings to take place so all are moving together, e.g., a quarterly meeting of all councils.

Fr Bill: The entire parish needs to know about issues and see the linkages among them.

Pat: We need to welcome Christmas and Easter visitors, perhaps design and use a seasonal brochure to encourage them to return (ACTION ITEM for Pat to develop brochure)

Melissa: We need to see more financial figures in bulletin.

Joe: A list of council members should be published in the bulletin and online (ACTION ITEM for Joe to create emails for all council members and publicize them w/o spam)

Tommy: What about benchmarks? How will we know we're succeeding? What are our performance goals? Shall there be requirements for review: by whom/of whom?

Melissa: Measure number of parishioners, of volunteers.

Joe: The dynamics of spiritual life are not quantifiable.

Pat: We should send off teams and programs with specific blessing/prayers at weekend Masses.

ACTION ITEMS for all:

Review the Charter by the next meeting, pay close attention to the Mission Statement, especially

- Art 1.B.4 on establishing goals, objectives for parish council
- Art 1.B.5: Each member to look at one area to take on

To consider at the next meeting: Eliminate announcements at Masses.

The regular meeting time will be the second Friday of the month, 8 to 10 am in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Next meeting: Nov 14, 2008