

# ***Pax Christi Collaborative Finance Council Meeting Minutes***

October 13, 2016

6:15-8:00 p.m.

Fr. Chris Rhodes, Facilitator

Council Members: Lisa Baxter, Judie Greiner, Jerry Raque, Paul Moon, Joe Germain, Jim Laemmle, Bob Schroeder, and Carl Heger

Excused: Frank Craven, Jeff Korfhage, Bob Malloy

Recording Secretary: Clare Vize

Guest: Robby Cashen

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. and opened by Fr. Chris with a prayer.

Father Chris welcomed new member Judie Greiner as our newest member of the Council.

Lisa then introduced Robby Cashen to the Council. Tom Ruxer was unavailable to meet this evening. Robby discussed roofing issues with each parish and discussed options for repair: overlay, tear-off, TPO's, etc. More bids are needed to compare apples to apples and we'll revisit in November. Lisa is concerned about the time-frame for tear-off we will need to avoid losing a bingo during either of the gym projects. Robby advised we can discuss with the contractor. Robby anticipates costs will be around \$10,000.00 for Elizabeth, \$40,000 for Therese and \$80,000 for OMOS. Robby felt Therese was the most pressing but was unaware that OMOS gym floor is buckling and coming apart due to the water leaking in for several years. Lisa stated that once we have the bids organized, the Council will make their recommendation to Father Chris, who will send a letter to the Archbishop asking for Chancery approval, permission to proceed and ask for help from the parish assistance Fund to help with the cost. The Council thanked Robby for his time and expertise on all of these projects. A question was raised about the timing of all these roofing projects going on with winter fast approaching, and Robby said it was OK to work on it, except they cannot work when there is moisture present. Robby then left the meeting.

Lisa gave out several handouts and said that July and August financial numbers are now closed; the bank reconciliations and other documents are available now for review on site here today.

Judie Greiner took last year's financial reports and put them side by side for comparison and she sent Lisa a list of questions she had. The council was copied on Judie's chart and on answers to the questions just for general knowledge.

Lisa's updates since last meeting:

OMOS: rental property issues including a bed bug problem again, an evictions and a roof leak.

St. Therese: has received 3 bequests since the last Council meeting; including one for \$25,000.00 with another \$15,000.00 expected by year end, another for \$960.00 and another for \$5,000.00. These should be helpful with roofing expense.

A call was received about the condition of the stable in St. Therese for Christmas; – could we possibly replace it or take up a special collection to pay for a new stable? It was agreed that spending a lot of money or taking up special collections to pay for was not a priority right now but Bob Schroeder said he would look at the stable and see if simple repairs could be made.

St. Elizabeth: it was hoped that the small toilets in the cafeteria could be replaced with handicapped height due to some issues the elderly were experiencing over there, but due to them hanging on the wall instead of on the floor, the plumbing would all need to be redone and a bid of \$10,000.00 was submitted. Billy Huber was asked for advice and he did not see any options. The Council is not interested in pursuing at this time.

The skylights at St. Elizabeth were discussed, as some have burnt out but they are located in the highest point of the church with questionable safe access. Fr. Dave had a specialized company come look at that declined to even attempt, our Plant and Services Manager does not believe he feels safe trying to change them and because of the location a lift is difficult to set. Jerry Raque said he would take a look and possibly see if he could get a man-lift high enough to replace them. The Council agreed it is not a top priority at this time.

At the last meeting the % split for office and administrative costs across the collaborative was decided. Fr. Chris has approved the plan that will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> and in an effort to be transparent presented a signature page for each Council member to sign. We will post the sheet on the web site when signed by all members; members who are not present today can come by the office to sign it.

A parish fundraising chart was passed out and reviewed. Questions were raised regarding fish fry volunteers, chairpeople and cooks. Each parish should talk amongst their fundraising groups before next meeting. Jerry thought it was too much for one person to handle, and a chairperson and a sub-chairperson each week would be needed to avoid burnout. If help is not available, then we need to address the masses that we need more time and resources, more treasure to stay open. Fundraising is the key – if we don't get it, we cannot stay afloat. We need to be aware of other events in the area during our fundraisers. For example, our picnic went on the same time as the Germantown festival. We need to watch for conflicts for our events so they don't overlap. Judie said we need to be smarter about what we spend, so we can get the best value for our dollar.

Lisa said a single collaborative picnic idea was raised last year; no one on the Council thought this was a viable option. \$66,000 is budgeted for all three parish picnics for next year, parking and other obstacles were mentioned. The picnic chairs from Therese have resigned so the whole future of Therese picnic is unclear. When we lose the spirit, we lose all out. We need new ideas. People need to come forward. Jerry Raque said we need to be working on these issues now, and not wait until May. Lisa stressed that we have no one in place, and to get people assigned to these tasks now. Judie added that we need to make it smarter, not harder.

Lisa asked again, who will be the chairpersons? Jerry said they would identify in the next 30 days or by the next meeting and bring their names to the Finance Council meeting. He stressed that the earlier they get started, the easier it gets. Paul Moon added that the lack of parish participation is the worst. Jerry suggested that pulpit requests for participation do help. Paul

said we need new ideas, and to think outside the box. An off-site picnic would not be an option because there's too much cost involved. The Finance Council then took the combined picnic idea off the table since it was not feasible.

Carl Heger asked if each parish has a parish council? Can our parish leaders meet to discuss fundraising? Fr. Chris answered there is not a parish council at each parish yet. Leaders cannot meet as a parish council, but as a fundraising committee. Jerry asked if people were involved in the past, how could we bring them back to the fold? Fr. Chris asked the Council to please form groups and start inviting to join a "fundraising think tank" for each parish. Judie suggested that some people are thinkers vs. doers, and to get the doers involved. Lisa asked since they are forming committees to please address the fish fry committees too. A few questions were asked and answered regarding gambling, a night at the races, restrictions on types of betting, beer selling, etc. Lisa asked they keep in mind the strain/impact of multiple fundraising events held individually in each parish and time frames. Judie suggested using the gym for dances, such as Valentine's Day; Bob said the parish population is aging, and there might be a problem with too loud music. What about comedy nights or chili suppers? Some opportunities for fundraising that are also social events. The Council reps from each parish will work with the Fundraising Think Tanks.

Kroger Rewards were discussed as well as the difficulties with "helping" parishioners sign up due to lack of internet in parish public spaces, ID and passwords required for signups allowing one to see private information, such as prescription refills. Everyone felt sign ups were best left to individuals.

Lisa reported that the bingo at OMOS has lost another person and no new volunteers were coming forward. They continue to struggle.

Lisa handed out information for the Council to look at for future discussion regarding the expense for the St. Therese cafeteria space in the last couple of years and the feasibility of holding on to this space. She suggested after the roof issues were resolved that perhaps the anticipated bequest by the end of the year could be used to reconfigure the gym space to be more what the parish needed?

Fr. Chris then thanked the Council for coming together to discuss these items.

Fr. Chris will contact Frank Craven who has missed several meetings and get his thoughts on resigning from Council. Father asked for other options, perhaps another woman on Council? Council will give it more thought.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Lisa will email the Council tomorrow with definite date. Jerry reminded those in attendance about the December 17<sup>th</sup> food baskets – to put on the calendar once he checks with Lisa about details.