

*Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting for St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church*

April 3, 2014

**Attendees:**

Father Lito

Lou Hinds (chairman)

Christine Waldenmaier (taking minutes)

Kathy Greene

Ben Gutierrez

Jennifer Langley

Jack Pierson

Charlie Schmidt and Mike Dillenberg reporting for the Capital Expenditure Committee

**Opening prayer:** All joined in the opening prayer led by Lou Hinds.

**Review of the March 6, 2014 minutes:** A motion was made by Kathy Greene to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jack Pierson. All agreed and the minutes were approved. Lou asked that the minutes be forwarded to the various ministry heads for final approval before they are posted.

**Action Item: The approved minutes of the March 6, 2014 Pastoral Council meeting will be sent by email to Ministry Chairpersons for their suggested corrections. After 5 days the minutes with any changes will be sent to Pat Hirsch to put on the website and to Joanne Boyko for posting on the bulletin board.**

Lou Hinds requested that Jennifer Langley open the meeting with a discussion concerning a recent Evangelization Seminar/Meeting that was hosted by the Diocese of Richmond. Father Lito, Deacon Dan, Shirley Hirsch, Jennifer Langley, Joanne Boyko, Mary Volz, Kathy Bredimus and Lou Hinds were the 8 member delegation that attended the Diocese of Richmond's – Evangelization Conference. The purpose of the seminar was to begin the process by which every parish in the Diocese of Richmond would develop a 5 year plan to increase Evangelization. Jennifer Langley had made copies of a book titled "Encountering the Joy of the Gospel; A Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Richmond" for the Pastoral Council members which she passed out. Jennifer said she discovered at the meeting that St. Peter's was really doing well overall in Education for both children and adults. Lou agreed that some of the other Parishes were struggling with coming together culturally and linguistically with Pilipino, Hispanic and English members of the parish. Lou said that the whole worldwide Catholic Church community needs to

come together to spread the Good News of the Gospel. The next step for our parish calls for us to draft a plan by September 1<sup>st</sup> with goals and objectives. Lou explained that we are encouraged to find someone who is not already involved with another ministry. The person selected would need to pick a team and write a plan with goals and objectives by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fr. Lito mentioned that there is no money involved; it is purely to preach the word of God (evangelization). However, Lou mentioned that the Diocese has set aside \$ 75,000 in grant money for 200 Parishes. Lou said that if we want grant money, we should apply sooner than later.

**Action Item: Find a person to head up a team for drafting a 5-year plan for Evangelization with goals and objectives to be written by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, ministry heads should be informed that there is grant money available for evangelization if they might be interested in applying.**

Capital Exchange Committee – Mike Dillenberg

Mike explained the need for a 123 space parking places with lighting for safety reasons. He illustrated how we could have this if we used existing areas where trees are now next to the Religious Education Building. This area could hold 34 spaces and would be overflow parking.

This plan was produced after looking at purchasing the land next door and it was found that the distances (from parking area to church) for the land we already own are the same for using that of the land next door. The fact that we already own this land, it would make sense to use it before buying more land.

This plan will take a lot of work – evaluation of drainage, tree and stump removal, crush and run stone fill, lighting, etc. Charlie Schmidt said we are asking an engineer to prepare a site plan which we could take to the Diocese, VDOT and Accomack County for approval. It would also define specifically what we want to do. This could be done in two phases. First the major parking lot, then the additional parking next to the religious education building. The estimated cost for the site plan may be \$5-7,000.00. The engineer could produce a Plan A and Plan B if we don't want to do both immediately. Mike added that after we get approval from the Diocese, we can take our time to phase in the needed changes.

Jack asked about the property next door. Mike answered that the property next door was reassessed recently and it has been devalued. Mike said that if we can acquire that land for a low amount we may want that in the future; however the need for this parking improvement is immediate and we can't wait for that to happen.

Lou asked for a motion to approve the expenditure for the site plan by an accredited engineer. Jack moved to approve the expenditure and Jennifer seconded the motion.

**Action Item – Members of the Capital Expenditure Committee will acquire the services of a qualified engineer to provide a site plan for our future parking lot needs.**

### **Religious Education Building Needs**

The education building is rated for occupancy of 75 people. In reality 1400 sq ft is the classroom space and at present we have 70 students. The least amount that industry standards call for is 25 sq. ft. per student. Currently, therefore, we have a space problem, which we have been using the parish hall to alleviate to some extent. A graph made by Sarah Coleman showed an increase in students every year since 2008. With all that in mind, Mike said we need a wing (25ft x 40ft) for more classrooms added to the Religious Education building. Mike asked for an engineer to evaluate what we need to do to expand the Religious Education building. With the engineer's certification we can get a recommendation for the septic discharge and the process can go up for approval from the County. Mike said that it would cost less than \$2,000.00 for that engineering certification. Sewage discharge for Sunday Schools is typically rated at 2 gals/day/student. He commented that this study may help with other septic problems we have been having in other areas of the church.

Lou mentioned that he had checked with the Finance Council chairman and they indicated that money was available for these needs. Charlie mentioned that if any costs came back higher than they expected, we would be informed.

After discussion, the Council agreed that even without expansion of the Religious Education building, due to problems we have had in the past, we need to determine what issues we have with our sewage discharge and how we can make improvements. Jennifer moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$2000.00 for the contract of an accredited engineer to determine the waste water characteristics and flow rates for an expanded education building. Jack Pierson seconded the motion.

**Action Item - Members of the Capital Expenditure Committee will acquire an engineer to provide a certified recommendation for septic discharge improvements and future needs.**

### **Date for the Parish Picnic**

Betty Chemi requested to know a date so she could purchase necessary paper products. Lou proposed that we do it on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Betty Chemi is fine with that date. Joanne has checked the calendar and we are open for that date. The Council affirmed this date. Lou asked that we set

the Sunday after Father's Day to always be the date for the Parish Picnic for future planning purposes.

### **Hispanic Ministries**

Ben said that they are going to make a schedule for grounds cleanup. They tried to start last weekend, but it rained. They will be getting a schedule this coming Sunday. Lou suggested that we may want to expand the cleanup crews to include more people for indoor projects also. Ben said we will be bringing mulch and plants and he asked if planting roses would be any problem. Lou encouraged them to bring roses and any other plants that they want to plant.

**Action Item – Ben will meet with the group this Sunday and make a schedule of two Saturdays per month. Ben will bring the schedule to the next meeting.**

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

A parishioner requested via a proposal that we remove the personal prayers after the prayer of the faithful. After much discussion the Pastoral Council voted to keep the personal prayers. Fr. Lito said he would respect the Council's decision. He understands that it gives a sense of belonging and that as the presider he knows how to budget the time. Fr. Lito decided that we will keep the personal prayers.

### **Parish Community Life**

Fr. Lito showed the job description of the Parish Community Life group. Reita Schmidt will be the committee chairperson. Betty Chemi will be responsible for the celebration of the Parish Picnic. Mary Ellen Cornwell will be responsible for fellowship and welcoming. Deacon Dan and Colleen Daley will be responsible for visiting the sick in the hospital.

Fr. Lito asked for a volunteer from the Pastoral Council to be a liaison with the Parish Community Life Ministry. Jennifer volunteered to be the liaison.

### **Vision Statement**

Lou reported that no one has volunteered to help develop a draft vision statement. He handed out 5 draft vision statements from other parishes taken off the Internet from parishes all over the country.

For our Mission Statement, Lou showed where he added in bold the phrase “proclaiming it to all creation”. This is just a draft change to satisfy the Diocesan requirement for Mission Statements and it taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

For the Vision Statement, Lou asked that we all take home and read the drafts and re-write them as we would like to see them. Lou asked us to evaluate them and send them back to him in two weeks. Then he would present them to the parish. After the statement is written, he would ask each ministry to write two goals that would fit under the vision with objectives and strategies to get there.

**Action Item – Members of the Parish Council will send back to Lou the vision statements that they prefer before April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Future Church**

Ben has asked what we are doing about the future church. Some of the members of the Hispanic community are wondering if we are still planning to build a new church. Lou had asked Deacon Paul McAfee from Richmond Diocese to come out and speak with the various ministries and to develop a plan of action. Deacon McAfee would speak with the people as to pros and cons of building a new church or remodeling our current church.

Fr. Lito expressed a concern about expanding the parking lot if we aren't going to stay here. Lou responded that we can't do anything with the parking lot until we get approval from VDOT, that he felt that the repairs to the parking lot and septic are immediate needs and can't be postponed. Jack pointed out that we could do repairs on the parking lot to address immediate concerns. Lou commented that Charlie had advised that we do the parking lot repairs in stages.

Kathy Greene asked about selling the property in Melfa. Lou said that wasn't a proposal yet. Jack Pierson commented that he had thought that the property was given specifically for building a Church. Fr. Lito explained that Bishop DiLorenzo said that we could build if we sold the current property and if we had 1/3 of the money raised, 1/3 borrowed from the diocese and 1/3 from future donations. Jack Pierson asked Fr. Lito how he felt about a new church. Fr. Lito said that he is more concerned with the community than building a new church. He understands that there is history in this church.

Lou asked that we all be ready to voice our concerns when we meet with Deacon Paul McAfee. Jack Pierson asked if the meeting is planned. Lou responded that we need to send to him information before he can set a time for the meeting.

Ben pointed out that the Hispanic group is wondering if they should have concerts to raise money for rebuilding or renovating the church. Lou commented that we need all parishioners to have a part in the decision making process. Lou asked that the Hispanic group meet with Deacon Paul also to figure out what decision will be made.

**Action Item - Lou will send to Deacon Paul McAfee the information he needs and then set up a date for him to come and meet with our Parishioners for a discussion about the needs and opportunities for the future of St. Peters.**

### **Parish Maintenance Collection**

Lou recommended that we have a second collection for the parish maintenance fund monthly. Fr. Lito said we have to inform the diocese before we have a second collection. Lou said that the maintenance would be whatever we might need for upkeep and maintenance of parish facilities.

**Action Item – Inform the Diocese that we would like to take up a second collection once a month for parish maintenance needs.**

Fr. Lito asked if we could move the Pastoral Council meeting to the first Wednesday of the month. The Council agreed to move the meeting dates.

Fr. Lito concluded the meeting with a Prayer.