

	Meeting Minutes Pax Christi Monthly Council Meeting	COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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Council:	Community Council
Meeting Date:	1-21-2020
Minutes Prepared By:	Andrea Ward

Attendees:	Fred Baumer – Chair	Mike Kennedy
	Fr. Mike Byron	Andy Leet
	Jane Schmitz	Phyllis Olson
	Bruce Koehn Carolyn Zucker	Dave Putrich Ricardo Ortiz-Nava
	Dale Nelson Mary Frances Messer Nicholle Check	Mike Schneider Cindy Schuh

Absent:	Julie Tyler	

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Fred Baumer.

Opening Prayer: Ricardo Ortiz-Nava led the opening prayer.

Approve Last Month Minutes: Minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting were approved.

Reminder that Ministry Council Minutes takers need not document CC report since the CC minutes will be sent to all.

Approved Revisions: None

1. Reading of Values: Justice (page 7 in the Leadership Guide).

2. Update from the Arts, Campus and Gardens Council: Ken Reineccius and Kevin Roth presented the plans for two upcoming proposed projects.

- **Parking Lot Upgrade:**
 - Part of the Master Plan
 - Estimated no more than \$25,000 required for project, including landscaping around the new opening in the berm
 - Connect main entrance (Door 3) to the pedestrian walkway along Pioneer Trail
 - Raised walkway, painted so that it stands out
 - Provide safe walking space to parish building

- Slow down traffic in the parking lot
- ACG Council is currently working on finalizing the scope and drafting the RFP
- Will be starting vendor selection and bidding in February
- Plan to start construction after Easter or early spring 2020, minimal disruption is expected during the process
- Church Screens and Cameras Upgrade:
 - Current screens and cameras are 15 years old, and not fully functional in the setup we currently have
 - Expected expense of \$125,000 +/- \$10,000
 - No current funding source has been identified, seeking beginning approval to send the project to the Finance Council to find a funding source
 - Onsite vendor meeting with Tierney and Parsons on January 28
 - Concern raised about expense given other needs, such as justice grants
 - Is there a way to use what we have currently more effectively?
 - Concerns also raised about not moving forward with the project and the current system failing.

Approval Process:

- Parking lot update fully approved
- Screens and cameras upgrade put through to the Finance Council to discuss funding source.
- Once Finance Council discusses and their direction is given, an email poll will be sent to all Community Council members for their response/approval to go forward in order to keep the timeline.

3. “A Call to Leadership” Update from Lay Leadership: Dave Putrich led the discussion about the changes in the leadership discernment process. One of the main changes is a move away from the discernment language to language focusing on “calling.” Also updating the information night to include time for personal prayer and reflection.

Request to Councils:

1. Review and update, if necessary, the skills/strengths list for their council. Dave will be looking into where the skills and strengths are currently listed and sending them to the Council Chairs
2. Personally invite **AT LEAST** one person, preferably three people, to consider joining a council, answering *A Call to Leadership*
3. Fill out the information on the marketing sheet that will be given to each council (one sheet, front and back)

Important Dates to remember:

- March 3: Leadership Nominations open – online and paper copies of nomination forms will be available
- April 14, 16: Information Nights for Potential Leaders – People only need to attend one information night
- May 6: New Leader Commitment Night – Goal is to have all councils full (9 leaders on each)

4. Proposal – A Year with The St. John’s Bible: Fr. Mike presented the proposal to have an on-site installation of the “Gospels and Acts” volume, framed illuminations, and guest lectures, plus digital access to 160 illuminations. Cost of \$15,000 for the program, potentially coming from the Continuing Education budget. No set dates on when it would happen or when decision has to be made. Tentative planning to have program begin in Advent 2020 so that it would coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Pax Christi.

Unanimous approval from Community Council to move forward with the planning process for the program

5. Synod Update: Phyllis Olson gave a brief overview of the way that data is collected by the Archdiocese at the Listening Sessions through handwritten notes in notebooks and electronically with a program that allows people to participate with their phones. This will be followed by group discussion and finally a limited number of individuals will be randomly selected to speak to the Archbishop before the whole group.

There are prompts to give people a place to start in what they like and what they don't like in their local parish and in the Archdiocese, but comments and concerns can be outside of these buckets. Please take some time to pray and ponder before January 28 and bring forward whatever is coming forward through that time.

6. Mid-Year Strategic Planning Update – Participation Trends and Data: Tabled until February meeting due to time.

Next Meeting – February, 18, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Ward.

Note: The Finance Council discussed the funding for the Video/Screens upgrade at this January meeting. A report was sent, and the Chair sent out an email poll to all Council Members. Approval to go forward was given. The polling results are attached.

Council Responses to Request for Voting on ACG Video/Screens Projects
January 25, 2020

Mike Kennedy: Finance and Development

I fully support moving forward on the video project now for the following reasons (some of this comes from further discussions in the F&DC meeting last night – Jeff Schuh from F&DC was a participant in this process and provided further insight):

- Issues identified by the video committee: Dark screens, hard to see from various areas, image clarity is an issue for hearing impaired, limited camera angles.
- The current system does not have many years left to be minimally usable, so some type of update/repair/replacement will be necessary fairly soon.
- ACG is requesting very detailed bids to help identify ways to keep the project cost to a minimum. This includes identifying portions of the work that can be handled by the Hard Hat group and will also allow them to price-compare the specified equipment to avoid unnecessary markups.
- I have struggled to read the music on the screens this past year or so. I thought it was simply aging, but based on last week's eye exam I ruled that out, so maybe the degradation of the projection quality has been the problem.
- In order to help attract and retain the next generation(s) to Pax, I believe we have to provide a worship experience that utilizes current technology in a meaningful way. Having a projection system that is clearly tired at best is not going to do it.
- Timing is good. With the current strength of the economy and the belief that there could be a downturn of some magnitude coming in the next few years, I believe it would be better to seek new funding today than to possibly be doing it during a downturn. I recognize that we do have the funds to handle this now in the Capital Reserve account, but this would be our backstop for moving forward. We are reasonably optimistic that securing new funds for this project can be achieved today (and this is coming from a bunch of conservative 'finance types'!).
- I don't believe this project will decrease our abilities to fund other needs, such as ever-increasing justice grant requests? There are many people that are looking for unique ways to support Pax. Some will want to be a part of visible facility projects and others will want to help ensure sustainability for the justice needs. In December alone, we received \$83K in donations that were earmarked for the Endowment Fund, the earnings of which are aimed at providing ongoing support for justice.

Nicolle Check: Communications

I vote yes to fund the video project in the main sanctuary based on the following criteria. Thank you for the opportunity to share my rationale.

1. This is a long-standing need identified by parishioners and thoroughly researched by the ACG council. Increased Mass attendance (2 percent) was identified as a goal during the 2017 Strategic Planning process. Screens don't guarantee attendance, but they will help people participate during Mass.
2. Attention has been paid to the aesthetics of the parish space. Screens will be installed in a fiscally responsible manner (using our volunteer help where applicable, completing the project incrementally if that's more cost-effective) and neither screens nor cameras will detract from the celebration of the Eucharist.
3. I like that parishioners will be able to view special happenings at the font (Baptisms celebrated during Mass, Easter Vigil, etc.) and the sightlines will be improved for those way, way back on the west side of the sanctuary (Hall of Martyrs).
4. Question: Will the video/TV screens in Dorothy Day and in the Hall of Martyrs be upgraded as well? The answer does not affect my decision regarding the overall project.

Answer from Ken: We did not expect to upgrade the screens in the Dorothy Day Hall. These were replaced within the past two years. But we will be installing a new projector for the screen that serves the Hall of the Martyrs.

5. Question: Will there be recording capability from that post-mounted camera so that families may have a recording of their child's baptism?

Answer from Ken: We did not have a recording capability built into the system for video, other than the recording deck in the booth. We can add that as a question for our contractors walk through.

Cindy Schuh: Care and Support

I also vote yes for the video project in the main sanctuary. I feel that the homework has been done and the new system has been needed for a long time. It will be a great improvement.

Dave Putrich: Lay Leadership Development and Engagement

I vote yes in support of the video project. I'm glad the Finance Council has the funding. This project is long overdue. My rationale:

1. It is getting harder for us wiser (= older) parishioners to see some of the verbiage clearly. The screens seem to be getting dimmer.
2. The ACG has done a thorough job over a couple of years on this project. Thanks! It seems they have considered every variable.
3. I'm pleased to see that three councils joined in the project.
4. Question: It seems like the pastor and the lectors aren't well-lighted, especially during the readings. Will this be improved?

Answer from Ken.: The new cameras will help some. We also need to find a way to light from the floor level. This was a significant conversation we had with the contractors.

Michael Schneider: Hospitality and Community Outreach

I agree that with the funding available, both the walkway from the street to the front door and the replacement of the video screens are worthwhile projects that will benefit the Pax Christi community. These are both long term investments that will serve us well.

Phyllis Olson: Worship

I am voting "yes" in response to the proposal for the ACG Council to continue moving forward with the video project with support of the F&DC's optimism for securing new funding and the backup for capital funds if needed. I believe that the ACG Council has done its due diligence with regard to researching and evaluating the need for better sight for all parishioners during liturgical celebrations as well as reviewing different vendors and taking great care to underscore the importance of maintaining the integrity of the worship space. To those of you who have done so much of this hands-on-work, thank you.

Andy Leet: Lifelong Faith Formation

I'm glad that the Finance Council has indicated that it has the budget to complete this project and I appreciate all the work that has gone into the process from the members of the Arts and Campus group. If we are to be a welcoming parish to both internal and external community members, then it's important that the screens be easy for everyone to

read and that the images are crisper than they are now. I also really like the idea of installing a camera near the front area so that we can more actively participate as a community in the baptismal and Easter Vigil ceremonies. I support moving forward with this project.

Ricardo Ortiz-Nava: Justice

I move to approve the budget. I rejected the use of \$125,000 before knowing there was money allocated for that sole purpose. On good conscience could not have approve the expenditure of that amount before knowing that. Thank you for your patience.

What is going to happen to the older equipment?

Answer from Ken: We will definitely try to sell or repurpose any used equipment. Anything that is unusable will be recycled.

Julie Tyler: Arts, Campus and Gardens

I move to go forward with the ACG proposal. The research that was put into this project was thorough. The improvements will be beneficial for all parishioners and will be good investments for the future.

Mary Frances Messer: At-Large

I too am very pleased to see the Finance Council's recommendations and totally support it. I also think it is a need and once installed will add to participation in liturgies as well as facilitate other events when the projection system and screens are used. Also if we delayed this to a later time it would cost more so I also think it is more cost efficient to do it now.

Fred Baumer: At-Large

I support moving on this project now and I appreciate the many hours that have gone into the ACG committee work, looking at multiple options and coming to an agreement on what would meet the needs and be cost-effective. I also encourage the bidders create a visual that shows the aesthetics of how the screens will look in the space. I met a parishioner at Mass several weeks ago who comes from South St. Paul every week. I asked what drew him to Pax, and he spoke of the multiple ministries, the justice component, and then he said: "And I don't go to any church that doesn't have screens. If there are no screens people just look down into the missalettes, but never look at each other. I like that our heads are up."

Dale Nelson: At-Large

I vote to approve the video proposal.

Carolyn Zucker: Trustee

I am very pleased to see the Finance Council's recommendations and wholeheartedly support it. I was able to attend the ACG council meeting last night and consideration that wasn't really clear in the presentation of the video monitor/camera project is that the team leading that initiative is a multi-council (Worship, Finance and ACG) team....so it clearly has broader support, the homework has been done and multiple councils have indeed validated it as a need.

The ACG council was indeed concerned about timing so thanks to all for your willingness to move this along. They are meeting with potential vendors on Monday 1/27 so it would be great if they could have the green light by then.

Bruce Koehn: Trustee

I don't have a vote but have 2 cents worth of input...

It seems to me that these expenditures are 1) within the scope of the strategic plan, 2) are included in either the approved landscape master plan or the projected facilities maintenance plan, 3) determined to be affordable to the parish by the Finance Council, and 4) in the case of the worship space video plan, has a wide basis of support by several ministries.

Arts, Campus, and Gardens should seek bids on the projects and present final recommendations to the Community Council for a vote. Please remember that both projects are likely to require a proxy from the archdiocese which will take a minimum of a month to get approval.

Fr. Mike: Pastor

I defer to the collective wisdom of the Finance Council.