

**Finance Council
Meeting Minutes
01.24.12**

Present: Gene Noem (Chair), Sara Ofelie, Diane Lyon, Bob Lehamann, Bobby LeBlanc, Mary Ann Dilla, Bill Dilla, Jared Chizek, and Jim Koopman.

Guest: Ina Couture (budget), Kris Egan (Development), Kevin Nennig (MAWOD)

Bobby opened the meeting with a prayer centered on St. Thomas Aquinas.

Kris Egan:

- Kris explained the “Pay It Forward Challenge” which she indicated was approved by Father Seda and is a part of her work goals. It is modeled on a successful senior gift & giving program used at St. Mary’s at Texas A&M.
- We appreciated the explanation and there seemed to be no need for any Council action at this time.

Business Manager Report:

- Bobby and Bill will draft an OUTDOOR DISPLAY POLICY for the church building and present it to the Finance Council at the February meeting.
- There is still an interest, but no one stepping forward, in developing a WORSHIP SPACE USE POLICY, specifically for concerts and presentations and non-liturgical events. On the *back burner* for now.
- Discussed the possibility of STA using FLOCKNOTE (www.flocknote.com) for parish registration – Council thought the idea had potential, its cost was reasonable, but how and who of administering the system would have to be worked out. The Council would support trying this in the fall of 2012. Other parish leadership groups are being asked for feedback. Please note that Jim *told us so!* We would be using texting more! Thanks, Jim. Jim also said he would be willing to help provide oversight for the administration of the flockNote program if and when we try it.
- The Knights of Columbus have been very tardy in reporting to the parish and Finance Council on their fundraisers, as the parish policy requires. Bobby has spoken to the Grand Knight about this and there is a promise to do better.
- Reviewed the Cunneen Appeal. Response to the appeal and pledge increases were positive and could be considered successful. The statistics from Cunneen look good. Felt that if we worked with this company again in the future for another appeal or a follow-up appeal we will have benefited from what we learned this time and could be even more effective. Area for improvement would be crafting better and more STA-specific letters and materials and perhaps using a different approach with ISU students.
- Discussed when STA would pay for parking at the MU ramp during the time of parking structure construction (March thru September) – cost is \$1.50 per vehicle for 135 minutes. It is difficult to know exactly the cost we are talking about – parking and church events have so many variables. A policy was accepted, but tweaked and fine-tuned after the meeting with numerous emails.
- The policy as finally approved:

During the construction of the new parking structure, STA will pay for up to 135 minutes of parking in the MU Ramp for Masses--weekend & daily-- (including funerals but not weddings), funeral vigils, communal Reconciliation services, Good Friday, Wednesday night faith formation catechist parking, for Whole Parish Catechesis and for STA Sunday Night Community Dinners. We encourage all parishioners coming to STA, when possible to utilize on-street parking, CyRide, carpooling, free parking lots on campus (during evenings, weekends and holidays certain lots are open for use by the general public), or to pay for their own MU Ramp parking. We strongly discourage any illegal parking in the parking lots of our neighbors (Lutheran church, fraternities, sororities, etc). We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during the parking construction that will afford us with abundant parking once completed.

Also please note that during construction, in the Ash Ave. parking lot, all parking spaces will be HANDICAPPED ONLY for weekend Masses, and during the week VISITOR spaces will be 90 MINUTE PARKING ONLY. In order to insure some onsite parking these spaces will be strictly enforced.

- Discussion on the CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE, and specifically investing the recent gift for needy students in this fund, was tabled until the February meeting because of time.

Personnel:

- The Personnel Committee meets with Shari Reilly on January 25 to discuss a campus ministry intern as part of the Evangelical Catholic program being adopted in the parish for campus ministry outreach. Following the meeting Sara will report to the Council what this involves and if any Finance Council action is needed.

MAWOD Allocation:

- Agenda item on Fund Allocation policy for the MAWOD event was tabled till the February meeting.
- Prior to the February meeting we will receive a copy of the final policy and at the meeting vote on approval.

Development Office:

- December report had been sent to members for review prior to the meeting.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Dusting of Story Wall and the cleaning of two light rings in the church was completed.
- Bob gave an update on the parking structure construction.
- Buildings and Grounds committee will meet in February.

Budget:

- Ina quickly reviewed the December financials – no questions or concerns.
- The first draft of the 2012-2013 budget was reviewed.
- Areas of note:
 - AMOS contribution – where to come from?
 - Finance Council supports using the Community Outreach Tithe for this
 - Campus Ministry – increases in Peer Ministry and Advertising
 - Projected salary raises – 3%
- Please send suggestions, questions and concerns to Ina BEFORE the next budget committee meeting- February 20th – need to prepare the next draft based on Finance Council input.
- One page summary of the proposed budget to go to the Pastoral Council and not the entire budget.

New Worship Space Sound System:

- Jim reported there is nothing new to report.

Vision Statement:

- As soon as Gene has an update on the Vision document he will share it with the Finance Council.

Where MAWOD fits in parish leadership structure?:

- Original fundraiser started off under Campus Ministry and since it has become THE parish fundraiser it has never been officially put under a parish commission for oversight, leadership and approval.
- The Finance Council makes the most sense and so MAWOD planning committee is now formalized as a committee of the Finance Council.
 - MAWOD will send a member to be a member of Finance as soon as feasible.
 - Kris inquired as to staff role/her role with MAWOD going forward.
 - Gene said in goal setting meetings with Fr. Seda they will make a determination or throw it back to Finance to make a determination.
 - Kevin feels some staff involvement, beyond or part of Finance involvement, is important.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 28**, 7:00 pm.