

St Anthony of Padua: Ad Hoc Steering Committee

Brief summary of the meeting of March 16, 2017

In 2008-2010, the diocese and parish approved a building project in three phases. Phases I and II have been completed. Phase III called for the building of a new parish center and the removal of the old church building of 1941. The present steering committee has been revisiting that decision. Last night we moved toward the following consensus:

1.

The church building of 1941 is in such bad shape that repairing it seems foolish. We will continue to do basic research of rough cost estimates, but it would be an unwise use of time and money to do any in depth study or cost analysis. Even if we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the building we would end up with a building that

- was not REALLY the original church but a replacement with new materials,
- would not meet our needs, and
- would probably fall apart anyway within a few decades.

2.

Most likely this new steering committee will come to the same conclusion as the previous building committee of 2008-2010. That is, most likely we will recommend that Phase III be carried out, in the following order:

- Phase IIIa - Removal of church building of 1941, building of a new facade on Maumee St. (2017-2018)
- Phase IIIb - Extension of the parish center eastward, roughly doubling it in size (2018-2022)
- Phase IIIc - Figure out a permanent solution to the church building of 1959 (after 2022)

3.

The decision making process, following diocesan rules, goes like this:

1. The steering committee prepares a solid proposal as soon as possible
2. A public meeting will be held on March 25 to allow parishioner input
3. The steering committee takes that input into account as it concretizes its proposal. (A steering committee meeting is scheduled for April 30.)
4. That proposal is sent to the Pastoral Council and Finance Council.
5. The Pastoral Council presents the concretized proposal at the Town Hall Meeting of May 7.
6. The Pastoral Council and Finance Council, with the help of the steering committee, refines the proposal in May and early June. The pastor then puts his name to the refined proposal. The parish now "owns" the proposal.
7. The parish sends the proposal to the diocese for approval. As of this writing, we hope to send the proposal by mid-June 2017 or so. The diocese should respond by September.
8. Once we have the approval of the diocese, work can potentially begin in September or October of 2017.

If this sounds like a complicated process, it is - but it was designed over the centuries to make sure that everyone understands that the church and its resources belong to ALL of us, no one little group and no isolated priest can just dictate things that affect our common future.

4.

This weekend, a member of the steering committee will make the following announcement at all Masses:

**Mass Announcement Script
Weekend of March 18 / 19 - 2017
St. Anthony of Padua Steering Committee**

My name is _____, and I am a member of the special steering committee guiding the discussion about the future of our buildings. Today, I would like to share some information regarding the church campus with the congregation:

- The structural condition of the 1941 church has greatly deteriorated.
- Among the most significant concerns include:
 - Deteriorating basement walls
 - Outdated electrical components
 - Roof that requires significant repair or replacement
 - Asbestos in the tile and concrete subfloor in the basement.
- Multiple building professionals have reviewed the issues with the structure and have expressed great concern about the effectiveness of renovating the old church to meet the long-term needs of the parish for classrooms and meeting space.
- Based on the decrepit state of the old church building, we felt it was best if we no longer allow ourselves to rent this space to Bright Beginnings Preschool after their school year ends in June.
- A steering committee has been formed to propose options to meet the future requirements of the parish community. There are about 14 members on the committee. We have held several meetings already and more are planned.
- As a reminder, the new-church building committee's original plans from a few years ago included the demolition of the 1941 church and construction of additional classroom / meeting space to the east of the parish center.
- If you would like to discuss this topic in more detail, we will be holding a meeting on March 25th at 11:00AM in the parish hall. All are welcome.

5.

As of March 16, 2017, the steering committee consists of:

Lisa Aldrich (chair), Dan Caruso, Jennifer Dannic, Dan Lepley, Jarrick McClure (finance council), John Peters, Liat Peters (pastoral council), Mark Preuss, Joshua Rinard, Ken Schneider, Ken Wilson.

Keep watching this space for more information to come!

*Peace and all good,
fr Bob, 17 March 2017*