

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

700 W. Maumee St., Angola IN 46703 USA ☐ www.stanthonyangola.com ☐ info@stanthonyangola.com ☐ (260) 665-2259

Public Meeting of the Old Building Steering Committee – August 26, 2017 Meeting Summary

The ad hoc Steering Committee regarding the old church buildings called in to an open meeting in the parish hall on Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. About 30 people attended.

Opening Statement by Fr. Bob

By the end of the Steering Committee meeting of August 22, 2017, we had come to the following three recommendations with respect to the building project plan of 2010 (Project “Connecting in Faith and Fellowship”):

1. Demolition of the original church building of 1941 will continue as planned. This is now in the works.
2. The second church of 1959 (the Butler building) should be renovated as a large, multi-purpose hall for parishioners. The Steering Committee recommends against a) tearing it down, b) permanently dividing it up into classrooms like a school house or c) making it into a public rental hall. This project could cost in the range \$400,000 to \$1,000,000, depending on the parish’s ambition.
3. There should be moderate renovations and repairs to the parish center, including the parish hall, in the \$100,000 price range. The Steering Committee recommends against the original plan of adding an addition for \$5,000,000.

Please note that these are recommendations.

The Steering Committee will hold one more meeting on September 13, and then be disbanded. It will be replaced by two new committees, a Building Project Committee and a Fund Raising

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 1



MEMO

Committee. The final phase of our 10-year renewal program will be called “Phase III: Fulfilling the Promise.” It will occupy much of 2018 and into 2019.

Discussion

The floor was opened for comments. Here is a brief summary:

Lisa Aldrich (steering committee chair) – to make it clear, the steering committee recommends that we have TWO halls, the parish hall as a smaller hall (capacity app. 75) and the old church as a larger hall (capacity several hundred). Perhaps both halls could have the appropriate kitchen and restrooms.

Fr. Bob – all of this is a continuation and completion of the “Connecting in Faith and Fellowship” plan as approved by the parish 2007-2010. When I arrived here in 2024, a number of parishioners expressed a wish to take a break from fundraising, and I as “the new guy” needed to learn the situation, so therefore I paused the whole project, but now it is time to finish it.

Norm Gajewski – the HVAC units in the old church are relatively new and in good condition. We must look at paving the gravel parking lot across Broad St.

Ruth Libey – how do we keep semis from parking on that lot?

Fr. Bob (in reply) – there is one semi that parks there, and he has permission. But when we asphalt the lot, we will have to tell him he can’t park there anymore.

Tom Blesch – Will the new Trine Ice Hockey Arena be a problem? How can we keep them from parking on our lot?

Fr. Bob (in reply) – Katie and I had a good meeting with the grounds department of Trine about that. Our insurance company (Catholic Mutual) has informed us that we may *not* charge for parking, or we open ourselves to lawsuits. We will therefore put up “Private Church Parking” signs. The rep from Trine did not think that it would be a big problem, because they have adequate parking on their side of the highway; but if it becomes a problem, Trine will help us solve it.

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 2



MEMO

Tom Blesch – we used to have a Parish Building Fund, and it was my understanding that the blue collection envelopes marked “Maintenance Fund”, which I use regularly, are for that long-term building improvement fund.

Katie Waltke (in reply) – the Building Fund has a good balance, which allows us to jump-start the fund raising, but we don’t want to deplete the fund at the beginning, or else next year’s fund raising will be that much harder. The blue envelopes are not marked clearly, and we must do a better job explaining that these donations are used for ongoing maintenance and not new building projects. This will be a topic for a future Finance Council meeting.

Rosie Broxon – funeral dinners work much better in the parish hall: people can come directly from the church, there is an elevator for senior citizens. Most any event that takes place after a Mass (funeral dinner, K of C breakfast, etc.) would be better in the smaller parish hall. Therefore, there must be an adequate kitchen and bathrooms. Bigger events (fish fry etc.) are better in the bigger hall, which therefore must also have a kitchen and bathrooms.

Fr. Bob – an important problem that is not yet solved is *storage*. Especially for tables and chairs.

Patricia Geise – what about the religion classes? Where will they meet?

Cara Molyet (in reply) – the numbers vary from year to year. Kindergarten through 6th grade will continue to meet in the upstairs classrooms, but some classes may be combined each year, depending on the numbers. The 6th graders will meet in the temporary classroom you see set up here, using removable room dividers. The 7th grade will meet in the parish hall alcove, which used to be the table storage area, but it makes a fine classroom. The 8th grade confirmation class will meet *this year* in the daily chapel. The high school youth group will meet Sunday evening in the 7th grade alcove room.

We must re-evaluate all of this next year.

The steering committee has suggested that the parish could decide to divide the parish hall using permanent walls.

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 3



MEMO

Neil Nusbaum – I am against dividing up the parish hall permanently using new walls. Let us see if the movable dividers do the trick. I can see that this solution cannot last 20 years.

Stan Fischer – does it make sense to have two kitchens?

Lisa Aldrich (in reply) – if the halls are used a lot, it does. In her opinion, neither hall should have a full-sized, restaurant quality kitchen. But both halls could use a smaller kitchen adequate for caterers, for ordinary meals, for warming things up, etc. The question is where the fryers should be for the fish fries. The new Building Committee must meet with the various ministries (esp. A&R and KofC) to see what their needs and wants are.

Chuck Stearns – What is the plan for the house on Kinney St.

Fr. Bob (in reply) – this is not part of the Connecting in Faith and Fellowship/Fulfilling the Promise projects. I had, therefore, hoped to avoid doing anything with that property until 2019, because we have enough projects going on! We must, however, remove a garage and a tree quickly because they are a hazard. A reputable company in Hamilton offered to remove and fill all the buildings for just a little bit more than other companies were bidding to remove the garage. The offer is only for a short time, the Finance Committee decided therefore to strike while the iron is hot. The house at 121 North Kinney will be torn down and the lawn beautified. (NOTE: this is not to be confused with 120 North Kinney, which is the friary, and the friars want to still live there!)

Marilyn Doerr – where did the funds come from to purchase the house at 121 N Kinney.

Katie Waltke (in reply) – from an inheritance. This was approved by the diocese after a request from our Finance Council.

Patricia Geise – when will the process of renovating the Butler building begin?

Answer – late 2018

Marilyn Doerr – will the stained glass windows be preserved?

Answer – yes

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 4



MEMO

Tom Blesch – are there any religious articles left in the 1941 church?

Answer – no

Fulfilling the Promise Campaign

At the end of the meeting, Fr. Bob explained the new building campaign called “Phase III: Fulfilling the Promise”. It will be combined with the ABA – there will only be one pledge card for both the ABA and our building campaign. We will launch the campaign at all Masses on the weekend of September 9-10 (weekend after Labor Day).

The meeting adjourned at 11:30

I have done my best to summarize the gist of people’s questions and comments. I hope that I have summarized your comments fairly!

Patti Webster, secretary

September 1, 2017

I edited these minutes for clarity on September 5, 2017

Fr. Bob

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 5



MEMO

Summary of Open Meeting, August 26, 2017 – p. 6

MEMO