

Minutes from Abbreviated Steering Committee Meeting held on 8/5/14

Attendees included:

Fr. Tom
Deacon Greg
Ken Moran
Mary Rice
Kevin Skinner
Marilyn Nagle

The following topics were discussed:

1. **Status of August Community Meeting and September QAC Day**

For the August Community Meeting, Marti Quackenbush and the Hospitality Committee have stepped out to get things organized. Pot luck sign ups and other planning are well underway. For QAC Day, the theme has been decided "Weaving Our Story" and preliminary planning has begun. Beginning next Sunday, Deacon Greg will begin making announcements in the Bulletin each week and Ken Moran will begin detailed planning and volunteer sign ups.

2. **New Expense Authorizations**

Three new expenses were discussed and approved. A new computer for Deacon Greg (approximately \$500) was authorized; a Community Coordinator thank you gift for Ken Takac (approximately \$100); and QAC Day expenses (approximately \$900).

Action: Tom McCrate coordinate with Deacon Greg and Ken Moran to account for expenses and obtain required documentation/receipts.

3. **Condolence Letter on Passing of Paul Marshall**

Deacon Greg's suggestion was approved to send a letter on behalf of the QAC Community to Fr Marty offering condolences to the entire Society of Mary on the loss of Fr. Paul Marshall.

Action: Deacon Greg collaborate with Fr Tom to draft condolence letter, obtain signatures from QAC Steering Committee members, and send to Fr Marty.

4. **Use of Growing Checking Balance**

The Checking Account balance has grown steadily over the last four years, and now has a substantial surplus to nominal and typical yearly emergency needs. Several ideas and suggestions were discussed on how to use the funds. It was decided to gather more information on Fr Tom's recommendation to invest in the Province "portfolio" with perhaps a 50/50 sharing of income proceeds. This approach has the advantage of earning significantly more than the current checking account, while building stronger ties to the Province. A final decision will be made based on the info Fr. Tom obtains.

Action: Fr Tom follow up with the Province and see what investment in the Province portfolio would entail.

5. Annual Tithing

Deacon Greg presented information on the trend for church attendance. The trend was fairly stable over a 5-year period with similar highs and lows over each year. Kevin Skinner discussed a similar year over year trend in the tithing which shows extremely large contributions by only a couple QAC members to meet the annual budget needs. Two ideas were discussed to potentially alleviate this appreciated by risky reliance. First, in conjunction with a call for QAC membership participation in activities and committees, the Stewardship committee would organize an annual pledge campaign. This annual pledge campaign will include recommended donation levels and will help members reassess their current giving level. Campaign should be organized to solicit commitments during mass via ballot or other mechanism with introduction/explanation by the Stewardship Committee or Community Coordinator. Second, we will explore the possibility of electronic tithing with the goal of making it easier and more convenient to give even when unable to attend mass. If possible, we will offer electronic tithing in conjunction with the commitment campaign.

Action: Stewardship Committee organize an annual "Time and Treasure" Commitment Campaign for approval and execution in September.

Action: Tom McCrate contact PNC Bank to determine how to implement electronic tithing.

6. Future of Si Lounge

Recent information regarding Marianist plans for the Si Lounge building were discussed. Although there are no firm plans or timelines yet, discussions continue on the potential to demolish the building due to its age and expense. Because the impact of losing Si Lounge would be so significant, several actions are needed now. In addition to Deacon Greg continuing to follow the discussions and planning activity on the property, two actions were authorized. First, the Futures Committee will be reconstituted and charged with developing options should Si Lounge go away in the future. Second, Fr. Tom's suggestion to send a letter to the Province was approved. The letter will state how essential the building is to the QAC Community, request for QAC to be involved in the decision making, and offer to help in any way we can. The letter will be co-signed by Fr. Tom and Ken Moran (on behalf of the Council).

Action: Ken Moran coordinate with Fr. Tom and Deacon Greg to send letter to Province.

7. New Archdiocese Fundraising Campaign

Fr. Tom provided a detailed overview of a new fundraising campaign initiated by the Archdiocese. The fundraising campaign is a one-time campaign (vice annual) and is titled "One Faith, One Hope, One Love." The purpose is to invest in five priorities, all of which members of QAC Community care about deeply and hold as important :

- ***Catholic school programming and tuition assistance:*** to ensure a high quality education that is accessible, available, and affordable for all families.

- **Local parish priorities:** to fortify, renew, and expand parish life, the center of our faith.
- Support of **vocations** through the education and faith formation of our seminarians, clergy, and lay faith leaders.
- Honoring the commitment to care for **our retired diocesan priests**.
- **Catholic charities and social services** to expand our ministry of serving the needy and vulnerable throughout our archdiocese.

Although there will be fundraising goals for each parish, there is no mandatory contribution amount. Although there are no mandatory level, each parish in the Archdiocese (including QAC) must participate in the campaign. The entire Archdiocese Campaign will be staggered over a year, but the activity within each parish will run only 16-week. Each Parish's timing will be set by the Archdiocese and announced in the September/October timeframe.

Following the overview, and healthy discussion, it was decided we would need an Ad Hoc Committee to steward the QAC Campaign and organize things like a "roll out" introduction to the community, execution of the campaign (including testimonials, sign ups, tracking, publicizing, etc.), and liaison with the Archdiocesan campaign organizers/leadership. Before forming the Ad Hoc Committee, more info is needed on the process and execution requirements.

Action: Fr. Tom and Ken Moran meet with Helen Fehey in the Archdiocese to get more info on the process and execution requirements



Kenneth J. Moran
Community Coordinator

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