

Way Forward Minutes

April 9, 2018

Meeting opened at 12:05 by Darren Gray. Present were PGK/FDD Darren Gray, Randy Carlisle, PGK/FDD Jim Morrison, PGK Glain Guilmette, Don Bessler, PGK Ron Thompson, Bob Brunk, PGK/FDD Norm Podgorski, Ken Witkowski, Bob Pasternak, PGK Lynn Figg, PGK Mike Higgins, Mel Szlag, Don Wesierski & Janice Polan

Jim Morrison spoke about selecting a moderator, setting up rules of order, a time limit and ending with selecting a future meeting with topic, place, date and time. Darren was selected as moderator.

Darren passed out sheets that showed council income and expenses over several year periods. Some main points were highlighted. Four topics of discussion were proposed: Future of Council, Building, Money Market Account and Income/Expenses (minimum fundraising/due revenue down). The members were polled and they wanted to talk about the house. Darren said there were four options for the house. They were Sell the House, Keep the House and Fix it, Sell the House and Rent, Sell the House and move into the Parish or Sell the House and Meet with another Council.

Ken Witkowski wanted to know how many members were simply insurance members. Darren said he would see if he could get that information from Tony Bliss. It was mentioned that more members need to become active. Glain Guilmette stated that we have 15 to 20 members attend the meetings. It was suggested that we call members a day before to remind them of the meeting.

Darren asked for a listing of the pros and cons for keeping the house.

Cons: It costs \$800.00 a month to cover our basic expenses (taxes, insurance, water, electric, phone, lawn mowing and drive plowing). Norm Podgorski said the cost was \$10K a year. Major repairs are additional expenses.

There will be major expenses such as windows, roof, awning and drain work.

There is a water problem. The weeping tiles are shot. (Glain Guilmette)

This is not a hall. (Mel Szlag) Moderator stated we cannot support a hall. Mike Higgins pointed out that other councils were getting rid of their halls. Jim Morrison mentioned that the reason for getting rid of the halls was the time and expense for which the state council felt that time & money could be better used to support charities.

There is no bathroom downstairs. Randy says one can be done for \$10K. Glain said that a vertical toilet could be installed

Porch needs repair including replacing awning.

Mike Higgins mentioned that other councils were moving into parishes. However with our present priest, it seems unlikely. Mel mentioned that all monies would have to be turned into the parish and they would determine what they would fund. We would

lose control. Randy said that would be the case. Glain said that the Archdiocese appoints priests. The next priest appointed for Madison Heights could likely be Vietnamese due to the high numbers of Vietnamese in our area.

Pros: The property allows us to have activities here that we probably would not be able to do elsewhere. (Jim Morrison)

Everything is here to use for dinners and parties. (Janice Polan)

Property is convenient to get to and has sufficient parking space.

Property is paid for (Mike Higgins) Property is on a variance from the city. The area is listed as limited residential. Property is residential and worth between \$150K and \$160K. Janice said Zillow said the value is \$158K.

It would cost more to rent property than what we are paying now. (Norm Podgorski)

A poll was taken and eleven out of fifteen stated they wanted to keep the building. However later, a member rescinded his vote about keeping the building. Moderator stated the best option then would be to keep the building and possibly later check about becoming a parish council as things progress with the parish.

Ken said to make the repairs to improve property value. Moderator pointed out that whoever buys the property would buy it for the land and the building would be torn down.

Moderator tabled further discussion.

Listed were the priorities: Chimney, Windows, Roof, Porch, Awning, Drain

Listed was a wish list: Downstairs bath room, Lift between floors

Moderator opened discussion about what to talk about.

Mike Higgins wanted a priority of projects with cost estimates and plan for paying for same. Also a budget needs to be drawn up for the council on a calendar year.

Moderator suggested it would be better to have it on a fiscal year to correspond to when new officers are installed. Mike said the American Funds provided us with income both from dividends and capital gains.

Ken Witkowski said that at one time he had a price for metal roofing that would allow him to build a flat roof to replace the awning for \$500.00 which included cement work. Ken said the awning is needed to carry water away from the porch to prevent water getting into the basement. Bob Pasternak asked who is going to put it up?

Janice suggested gutters.

Randy said he had gotten a quote for replacing the awning for \$5,600.00.

Glain said the fascia needed to be replaced when the roof is redone. It was mentioned that Paul Palmer had done the roof before. However Paul is now working at Ford and doesn't have the time.

Glain asked if we had a ladder to reach the roof and said he might be interested in repairing the flashing around the chimney.

Ron Thompson knows a person (Bill Peasley) who is a roofer. Moderator asked Ron to get a quote.

Randy said the following needs work to be done: garage cement, door to council, ramp, the wall, and the drain needs cleaning. There was discussion about whether we are both connected to the city sewer and a septic tank. Moderator asked for the city sewer/septic tank discussion to be put aside.

Ron Thompson suggested buying a Porta Potty.

Norm mentioned problem with filling officer positions.

Janice mentioned that the coffee pot needs to be shut off and maybe getting a portable tent.

Moderator set the next meeting to be on May 19 at noon to discuss income/expenses and membership.

Meeting was closed at 1:30 PM with a prayer by Darren Gray