

**Notes from Renovation Project Town Hall Meeting  
October 2, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Borromeo Hall**

33 total attendance: **8 from Facilities, FC, Staff:** Galen Grant (FCGA Architecture), Fr Mark Wiesner, Bob Lindberg, Mary Hengl, Jim Oliver, Bob Silva, Mary Fair, Gary Stimmell

**25 Parishioners:** Meredith and Mike Gatzman, Molly and Dennis Fisher, Crystal and Scott Meyer, Michele and Dick Shimada, Frances and Jim Vigus, Ruth and John Severyn, Doris and Joe Lennon, Claire LaScola, Mary Kroesen, Debbie Carey, Resa Arnold, Janet Schott, Marcia Elchesen, Bill McDonald, Betty Herrick, Alyssa Swinkels, Joe Tallarico and Rob Allen

Fr Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

He introduced Galen Grant, principal from FCGA Architecture, Danville. Galen went through concept drawings of project to:

- expand vestibule walls and entrance doors to align with church outside east wall
- add frosted glass wall with doors across vestibule to separate from sanctuary
- enlarge chapel
- add a campanile with bells and a cross on northeast edge of chapel facing street and gathering area
- expand gathering area and make it look more like a church campus from the street, including adding a shade structure between church/chapel and hall
- enlarge Keeley Center (KC) vestibule by making it a larger social area with a coffee bar
- expand kitchen into courtyard
- expand hall by adding an extension into courtyard with retractable doors on east and south walls
- add a meeting room at east end of courtyard
- add storage spaces at the south end of church
- build a new office building in front of modular building so all staff can work together; has a welcoming entrance to building
- remodel modular unit for larger youth room, adult formation, more meeting rooms and possibly a lunchroom for staff to gather
- enlarge storage shed
- create a hammerhead for LVFD, enclosed garbage bin area and additional parking lanes at south end of property.

Fr Mark clarified the following as part of the renovation/expansion project:

- Bathrooms in church and KC will be brought up to code
- St Charles cross remains (inadvertently omitted from drawings)
- Statue of Mary now in courtyard will be moved to a place of honor in a new location on property
- Children's play area will be considered
- Handicapped spaces, if staff office building is constructed, will be moved close to church, in front of KC and behind church.
- Seats instead of pews will be used in enlarged chapel for more flexibility and seating configurations for private baptisms and smaller funerals and weddings or other liturgies. Hope to also add a piano in chapel so can have live music for liturgies.

Questions and responses /R/ from Fr Mark:

1. John Severyn: Will there be enough handicapped/accessible parking spaces? (see above)
2. Joe Lennon: Will we be using Evans Alley for driveway to improve flow in and out of parking lot? /R/ No; didn't want to upset neighbors along westside of property, plus very costly; will be creating

hammerhead for emergency vehicles, using current driveway on east end of property and painting curbs red with no parking signs. Open to possibility of using part of garden next to KC to expand driveway.

3. Claire LaScola: Could expanded vestibule be used as a cry room? /R/ Yes; speakers in ceiling in vestibule.
4. Ruth Severyn: What is the square footage of the new chapel and coffee foyer in KC? Galen /R/: Chapel is 2000 sq. ft and seating will increase from 36-40 to 101. KC Foyer will be 1100 sq. ft.
5. Bill McDonald: Where will the shed be? Is there enough storage? /R/: Yes; storage shed size to be determined but will still be at back of property, plus adding storage rooms to south end of church and expanded kitchen in KC.
6. Claire LaScola: Suggests a more permanent shade cover instead of fabric panels for longer life.
7. Rob Allen: Agreed with Claire's suggestion; make sure there is enough light while still adding shade.
8. Rob Allen: Is plaza gathering area as big? /R/ Yes, actually larger; and there will be space between church and KC and in front of rectory.
9. Dennis Fisher: Would storage along Evans Alley be possible? /R/ Can look into code requirements. Where would be the place for BBQ for parish-wide events? /R/ In front of rectory; under shade structure.

Plans for vacant land south-end of property? /R/ Bishop is considering the growth in the tri-valley and wants land to be available for any future plans; will not approve selling the property.

10. Mike Gatzman: Where would we put excess seating for those who sit in vestibule for Christmas and Easter Masses? /R/ Can look at opening the doors and putting chairs in vestibule; hall will be larger and can hold more overflow seating; possibility of adding a screen in chapel for overflow seating. Mary Fair said we add about 60 chairs at Christmas and up to 70 at Easter in vestibule of church.
11. Resa Arnold: Will we have better lighting and signage on Lomitas? /R/ Yes; hope to have sign with Mass times on street, better up-lighting especially for campanile.
12. Debbie Carey: How will kitchen be enlarged and equipped for caterers, events hosted by church? /R/ Plan to get input from Amazing Graces, Social Committee, Men's Club, Girlfriend's Tea and others who frequently use kitchen.
13. Jim Vigus: What is the cost for this project? /R/ Vestibule, chapel, campanile, Hall, parking lot = \$4M Phase 2: Office building, remodel modular units, add storage rooms at rear of church = \$4M or a total of \$8M. Would we borrow from Diocese? /R/ Would prefer to not have to borrow, but will depend on interest, pledges and parishioners' commitment to project.
14. Joe Tallarico: Will there be any remodeling in church or sanctuary? /R/ No; nothing needed in church.
15. Betty Herrick: What is the time frame? /R/ Have to complete drawings, submit to design review at Diocese for approval, get permits from city, so after obtaining all approvals, would be 18-24 months.
16. Alyssa Swinkels: Will the doors separating the church and vestibule be open or closed? /R/ Closed; to keep distractions to a minimum; hope to design the doors and wall as art and a beautiful backdrop to font.
17. Dennis Fisher: What are the priorities? /R/ #1 – Chapel and vestibule; #2 – Gathering space, plaza and coffee space in KC foyer. Crystal Meyer validated these priorities as being the most important.
18. Bill McDonald: How much will the kitchen be enlarged and in what direction? /R/ Kitchen will be enlarged its length to about the posts holding up the walkway overhang in the courtyard.
19. Resa Arnold: She is sad that the designs show stained glass windows in the expanded chapel; one current chapel's beauty is that the outdoors is brought in through the glass wall looking at the enclosed garden. /R/ There's not been any final decisions about what type of glass will be in the chapel; could be clear glass, frosted glass, partial frosted and clear glass, stained glass. That's why asking for input at these meetings.  
Bells in campanile? /R/ They will have a pleasant chime and be electronically rung, possibly every hour and before liturgies. He had good responses from neighbors at St Augustine when they heard the bells chime on the hour.

20. Claire LaScola: Will there be statues or art in chapel? /R/ Fr Mark showed on drawings the 2 niches on each side of seating area for statues.
21. Mike Gatzman: What will the old modular offices be used for if building a new combined staff office space? /R/ Adult faith formation; expanded youth room; extra meeting rooms or lunchroom for staff since staff currently has no place to reheat food or eat together.
22. Claire LaScola: If staff moved to office building, what about the rectory offices and work spaces? /R/ Currently in the rectory there is no common area for gathering, like a living room in a home. When priests come for reconciliation services, only place to gather is in kitchen and dining room. Could also consider an added living suite.
23. Molly Fisher: Who are the people involved in this project to date? /R/ Galen the architect; staff, pastoral, finance and facilities councils. Have hired Walsh and Associates to conduct a feasibility study by confidentially interviewing 50 engaged parishioners to determine acceptance of project and willingness to financially support project.
24. Crystal Meyer: As coordinator of CLW, always concerned about the children and the time it takes to walk to Pope Room. Any possibility that CLW could meet in expanded chapel? /R/ Meeting in chapel would be a good learning opportunity for children to teach about sacred spaces. New chapel would be appropriate because could close doors separating vestibule and into chapel to keep noise from disturbing liturgy in church. Also thinks that choir might practice in chapel before Mass so that church can be a quiet space for prayer, meditation and preparation.
25. Resa Arnold: What do we do during construction? /R/ Probably remodel KC spaces during the summer when there is less activity; hold daily Mass or Communion Services in church when chapel being renovated. Will plan so that remodel has the least disruption to parish life.
26. Alyssa: How will new remodel look with existing spaces? Will it be modern and different, or will it unify spaces? /R/ Plan to paint all the spaces the same colors to unify them; add landscaping to soften some of the new hardscapes and surfaces. Could consider artistic textures on stucco on campanile, for example. His goal is to make sure the remodel is beautiful and artistic besides being functional.

Fr Mark stated that we are currently in the visioning and planning stages. Want to get input to know what parishioners think about project. Hopes to get feedback to know if project direction is good. Fr Mark encouraged attendees to send him or Bob Lindberg any additional questions or comments.

**Note: Mary Fair thinks that Fr Mark should ask for a show of hands at end of next meeting to determine acceptance of overall direction/vision/intention of project.**

If concept is approved and there is parish support to proceed. Fr Mark informed everyone that we will be submitting plans for entire project to get approval from city for a new conditional use permit, even if we don't do the entire project within the anticipated time frame of 18-24 months after permits and approvals. This will allow for phased remodeling under the new approved use permit.

Gary Stimmell suggested putting the drawings on-line. Jim Oliver said yes but thinks some comments and contact information should be included for those who view the project on the website.

Fr Mark thanked everyone for coming on such short notice and ended the meeting with a blessing and prayer.