

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team
Minutes of the Meeting of August 12, 2008

Attending: Father Mike Ratajczak, Phil Goscienski, Pat Goscienski, Mary Castle, Sondra Parks, Mario Diaz, Diana Diaz, Charlene Buhlert, Chris Smith, Douglas Lynn, Ann Ericksson, Kathy Quinn

The meeting opened with the reading of the Prayer of Dedication at 7:05 PM.

Phil Goscienski asked if there were any revisions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting. Since there were none, the minutes were accepted.

There was only one item on the agenda, the 22 page Draft, Version 1 of the Liturgical Program sent to us by Robert Habiger. We were told that Robert Habiger and Renzo Zecchetto will be meeting for the first time on Thursday, August 14.

As we reviewed the first page, Douglas Lynn mentioned that the Table of Contents on the first page is not consistent with the text that follows. Item "D" should be eliminated and the "D" replaced with the number "1" for Exterior/site. Following that would be "2" Building spaces, "3" Art, "4" Furnishings, "5" Appointments and "6" Equipment.

In the Introduction, first paragraph, the word "among" should replace the word "between."

In the second paragraph, the word "the" should be added before Church of St. Thomas More.

Douglas said that on Page 4, where the document *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship 2007* is listed, he wants to know if this document supersedes *Music in Catholic Worship*.

Pat Goscienski reminded us that we are to consider the following three questions as we review this document:

Mario Diaz asked if the architect will be working with this document. The answer is "yes" as both committees will be working with it. Phil Goscienski mentioned that this document is taken from "boilerplate" commonly used wording from Robert Habiger and is subject to modification to suit our needs. The final document will be the working document for the architect.

Father Mike told us the landscape architect will be hired by us with input from both Robert and Renzo. We must consider the size of the courtyard when discussing a fountain or water feature. Douglas asked if we were to have two plazas, one facing the parking lot, one between the church and the present building. It would appear that we will have two plazas plus the Meditation Gardens.

Phil Goscienski asked if we were to have a fire pit/fountain structure. Father Mike said that we would have such a structure. A discussion followed regarding the use of a grate

that would cover the fire pit and how it might be trip hazard and the opinion that we would not have a fountain that is subject to the wind. Such a structure can be designed. Chris Smith told us that \$25,000 has been committed to the fire pit/fountain. Douglas asked if the fire symbol would be available all year.

We discussed “xeric landscape” as noted on page 6 under Landscaping. Under this category, we added “Use native plants” as a Programming Consideration. We moved “Consider installing a xeric landscape” to a new category of Program Requirement. Under General Comment for “1.Exterior Site” on page 6, we added the word “the” in the first sentence to make it read “location of *the* church structure...” In the last sentence of the General Comment paragraph, we changed the word “may” to “should” so it reads “...new landscaping should require a desert-like landscape that uses less water.”

Chris Smith said and the committee agrees that our parish, as good stewards, should be aware of water supply conditions in our area and use as little precious water as possible.

On Page 6 we continued the discussion of the Court/Plaza. Under Program Considerations, we decided to send the question of keeping the existing palm tree (the one between the present worship space and the new church) to the New Construction Committee. We discussed the matter of security, gates and walls and this too is to be decided by the New Construction Committee.

We agreed that the plaza between the Church and our present building should be “children friendly” and to be aware of transitional spaces with the use of texture on the walking surfaces.

In the first “bullet point” on page 7, we discussed the main entrance, the “ceremonial door”. This door will be used all the time, not only for ceremonies or special occasions. The side doors to the plaza may be sliding doors made of glass, opening the space between the church and the outdoors. The second “bullet point” regarding the water feature should read: “If a water feature is included in the court/plaza area it should not be an open pool/fountain type as they require high maintenance and wind typically tosses water outside of the fountain. Any water feature needs to be restricted.”

Under Program Requirements, page 7, we discussed “Provisions for seating, adequate pedestrian lighting and shade trees. We would change the word “pedestrian” to “sufficient” or “overhead”, keeping in mind the 5:00 PM Mass in winter.

Also on page 7, where “shade trees” are made a requirement, we would remove the word “trees” so that any kind of shade can be provided, e.g. trellises.

In this discussion Douglas asked about the tables we set up for after Mass gatherings such as Hospitality, Women’s Guild, Knights of Columbus, etc. Where would these tables be? In the parking lot plaza or the center plaza? No decision was made.

Under the category of Meditation Garden on Page 7, we agreed that ongoing discussion is needed before a decision can be made regarding the question of Stations of the Cross – outside or inside or both.

Continuing on Page 7, under “2. Building Space” we had a long discussion regarding storage space for liturgical and other items. We decided to remove the word “sacristies” from the sentence, “Ancillary spaces such as restrooms, sacristies, and storage are not discussed in the document.” We believe that sacristies and possible liturgical storage in the sacristies do need to be included in this document. We will continue to store secular items in the present building. The matter of having a larger membership in the parish was discussed and whether this would affect our need for more secular storage space. It was felt that this would not be a factor. Because more people are participating does not necessarily mean that more storage space is needed.

The New Construction Committee is making space for storage under the walkway between the present building and the new church. Liturgical storage can be in the ministers’ sacristy.

Under “2. Building Spaces, Page 8 Program Considerations” we accepted the first item and changed the last words of the second item. Where it is written “current times”, we will substitute “architectural design of our master plan”.

Under “Narthex” on Page 8, we would change the wording in the first item to “ the narthex should be seen as a transition space from the outdoors to the inside of the church” or words to that effect.

The second “Program Consideration” under Narthex should read: “Provision for activities in the narthex shall be made in such a way as to not distract from its primary use as a liturgical space.” We eliminated the word “social.”

We do not know yet how big the narthex will be. We talked about the large narthex at Our Mother of Confidence and Father Mike reminded us that they require that much space as they have no courtyard and the outside doors open to a staircase.

We believe that glass doors will separate the narthex from the Eucharistic hall. This will allow the narthex to be used as a “children’s chapel” or quiet space for crying children. We have not discussed, in the past, if we are to have a quiet room. The space that is presently set aside for a Children’s Chapel in Renzo’s preliminary footprint could possibly be incorporated into the narthex making the narthex as a kind of Children’s Chapel when necessary. The matter will be referred to the New Construction Committee.

Also under “Narthex” program requirements, we added the word “sectionable” after the word “dimnable” for artificial lighting.

We will continue the discussion of this document at the next meeting on September 9 at 7:00 PM. The meeting closed with prayer led by Father Mike at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn