

St. John the Baptist Parish Development Commission  
October 22, 2019  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fran Davis who led the Commission in prayer. Members in attendance were Ralph Arnott, Fran Davis, Gene Delaune, Bob Gabler, Mark Haidet, Mark Hammer, Melissa Strunc, and Staff Representative Bret Sutton. Ed Robinson was absent. Guests attending were Father Paul Shovelain and Linda Harmon.

The September 17, 2019 Minutes were approved.

Fran announced that Mary Battmer has resigned from the Commission leaving us with a vacant position to be filled. She also announced that the Development Commission will be hosting Hospitality the weekend of November 9/10 and asked for volunteers. The Commission will also be staffing a table at the All Saints Party

Monthly Update Report on Development Progress – Bret reported that beginning in November he will provide the Commission with a detailed monthly report tracking our progress toward parish development goals.

Sunday Giving – Bret announced that we have received a \$75,000 challenge to be used to match the increased portion of a parishioner's annual giving received in 2020 over what had been given in 2019. OSMG letters asking parishioners to increase their giving will be mailed on November 1. Letters personally signed by Father Paul will be mailed to our most generous donors. Father Paul will speak at all Masses on November 2/3 on the importance of Investing in the Parish and the challenge and will ask people to be generous. Father asked for ideas for his remarks – it was suggested that he: (1) express gratitude for the past generosity of parishioners that has made it possible for the parish to provide a wide array of programs and services that make our parish special and (2) that it is important to be as specific as possible about why we are making this special effort to increase Sunday Giving in 2020. Several additional ideas to increase Sunday Giving were brought up – a specific appeal to all electronic givers asking them to increase the amount of their weekly commitment (Bob suggested a special challenge to encourage more people to sign up for electronic giving), that we look into setting up Venmo Giving Program to encourage younger people to contribute, and encouraging employees (and retirees) whose companies match gifts to the school to direct more of their annual support for the parish to the school. Fran asked Bob to lead an effort to investigate this possibility.

Legacy Program – Bret reported that we have received 12 responses from Father's letter to 87 parishioners who have previously indicated that they have included St. John's in their estate plans. The expectations from these future gifts is \$4 million, of which \$3.6 million is unrestricted. It was agreed that a plan to follow-up with the remaining 75 people who have yet to respond needs to be implemented following Commitment Weekend and that this should be completed by the end of the year. The Commission also agreed on the importance of developing a plan to personally visit with the most important prospects for Legacy Giving.

Constitution and By-Laws – Ralph passed out draft documents for the Constitution and the By-Laws that will govern the Commission. He noted that much of the material is standard but asked for members to give special attention to the Mission Statement. He also reminded everyone that one important decision that needs to be made is to designate the terms for each of the Commission’s current members – we need to have three members designated each to one-year, two-year and three-year terms. Fran requested that members review the drafts and submit any questions/comments to Ralph within two weeks. The Commission will discuss and approve the documents at its November meeting.

Father Paul closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Haidet