

St Felix Facilities Planning Group  
Session #2 held at St Felix School  
July 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm to 9 PM

**Invited:** Pastor, Deacon, Trustees, Pastoral and Budget Councils, Social Concerns Committee

**Attending:** Fr Prince, Deacon John Hust, Kathy Munns, Eric Sonnek, Mandy Edelbach, Kari Roemer, Tiffany Risch, Julie Russell, Ron Zeilinger, Mary Lu Harney, Dean Anderson, Jane Timm, John Hampe, Bradd Busch, Julie Leichtnam, Sandy Wolfe, Dan Schaefer

**River Architect:** Val Schute, Mike Swinghammer

**Opening Prayer:** Fr Prince

Dan Schaefer introduced the architects hired to develop a Concept Design Plan for the St Felix campus that includes: the church, offices, gym and school and pastor's house. Three meetings for the parish and school board were held earlier in 2024 to review the conditions of the various buildings. Those sessions resulted in a decision to engage an architectural firm to help the St Felix community make decisions about its future.

Val Schute started the presentation and discussion for about an hour, describing how they critique and evaluate the St Felix's space program needs. (A process of 7 meetings and with work sessions in between.) The first two steps include meetings with St Felix to understand the "program statement" of space needs, and how space issues enable or limit the vision and work of the parish and school. This analysis leads to an analysis of the codes, land, buildings, functional relationships, including their structural, mechanical, electrical conditions. These analysis leads to space options, cost estimate and phasing.

The second hour was led by Mike Swinghammer and he used 2 large drawings of the church and its relationship to the office, and highlighted how meeting space could be connected to the church and offices in the green space in between. The second drawing analyzed elevation differences from 3<sup>rd</sup> street to the alley for the church and how the church, new space and offices could be made barrier-free.

This stimulated discussion and questions.

- 1) How was the 50 to 100 person connected space sized? Val said the rule of thumb is to size connected meeting spaces with the ratio of meeting

space at 1/4 to 1/3 of typical church attendance. Spacing is about 15 square feet per seated person.

- 2) How was the space to used? Attendees voiced various meetings or programs now being held, with only two options, the Holy Family Room (church based), which has multiple function now. Or, the conference room in the office. Large events must be held in the school gym.
- 3) The group noted the Synod process which produced a report highlighting the needs to evangelize more effectively to our post confirmation youth, school aged children and young families. (The Synod summary report can be provided to the firm and made available on the church website.)
- 4) Questions were raised about the interiors of the church, which cited plaster, painting, pews and flooring. Replacing or repairing the pews was mentioned.
- 5) The historic nature of the exterior and interior was mentioned by Val Schute and he thought that the effort to refurbish it was a testament to the support of the parish to maintain that character and enhance it for the future. He noted that their firm has a studio (or group) that focused on historic preservation.
- 6) Some attendees were interested in how the evaluation of building new versus remodeling would be reflected in future meetings.

In closing, the parish and school attendees began to think about the opportunities this exercise had to engage others and involve them so that the broader parish and school families and persons' ideas were heard and considered early in the process.

**Next Meeting** – August 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dan Schaefer

July 13 draft