

Bellarmino Advisory Committee Minutes

Dec. 1, 2005

Present: Rita Pritchard, Richard Bollmann, Janet Neidhard Jim Brown, Karen Hurley. Karen Brandstetter. Jess Stieritz, Connie Widmer, Mike Marrero, Margaret O’Gorman

Absent: Andrew Thompson, Kinny McQuade, Sally Fellerhoff

The meeting opened with prayer (“A Jesse Tree Litany” created by Karen Hurley). Check-in was postponed until the end of the meeting time permitting.

Report From Stephanie Beck Borden: The chair, Jim Brown, invited Stephanie Beck Borden, the director of social mission, to give a brief report on the status and direction of social mission so as to leave adequate time for an update on the Amos Project.

Stephanie, on the job for 1 1/2 years, listed these as her current goals:

- “To involve more and more people in the work of social justice.” One way she hopes to do this is to start a St. Vincent de Paul group at Bellarmine—which would involve others besides her—in the work of responding to the many requests for assistance that come to the parish. Right now Stephanie says she is “a one-person referral/response team.”
- To introduce “tithing” and involvement in communal discernment of how resources should be distributed.
- To continue to encourage JustFaith in the parish. This year there are two groups meeting.

Discussion then turned to the Amos Project. Stephanie stated that nothing has happened regarding the work done by Advisory and the core teams for Amos and Social Mission in 2003-04. “All the suggestions remain on paper,” she reported. Karen H. asked if anything was going to happen to address the report prepared in 2004. Stephanie said nothing was in the works.

A discussion ensued with comments from Richard (“some change has occurred”) and Karen B. (noting the value of “the coming together of people who wouldn’t come together otherwise.”) It became obvious that many around the table did not have a very clear idea about Amos or of the evaluation process and resulting report undertaken by Advisory two years ago. (This report had been passed out with the agenda for the November meeting, but the agenda item was postponed until December.)

In an attempt to wrap up the rather lengthy and rambling discussion, Jim Brown asked Stephanie, “What are your hopes regarding Amos?” She said she hopes to find ways to connect Amos to more people in the parish and to draw the expertise of the parish into Amos. She hopes to “find a way to judiciously use Bellarmine’s power and prestige in Amos.”

The suggestion was made by Jim that the 2004 report be taken back to staff for action. The decision was to table this discussion until the next meeting in January.

At this point Stephanie left the meeting and Matt Walz was welcomed to give a report from the Finance Committee.

Report from Matt Walz. He began by referencing the presentation he made at the open meeting about finances for the parish in October, and then went on to speak of his committee's goals for the coming year:

- To balance the budget
- To replenish our savings
- To ensure that we “grow right” with a “smart application of resources”
- To integrate several new members
- To continue to improve financial transparency
- To arrange for an independent audit
- To create a “new member” brochure on the financial needs of the parish
- To increase the donor base—and help new members connect.

Members thanked Matt for the excellent work of the committee—and his effort to keep Advisory informed. A suggestions was made that an announcement be put in the bulletin encouraging parishioners to consider a year-end gift to Bellarmine.

Rita Pritchard notified members that she may have to resign because of a potential new work schedule that would make attending evening meetings impossible.

Next meeting: January 12. Mike Marrero volunteered to serve as scribe and prayer leader.

*Submitted by Karen Hurley
January 4, 2006*