

Mt. Irenaeus
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 13, 2020
Minutes

Present:	Absent:
Paul Aroune	Mike Muffoletto
Rob Buckla	
Kevin Cleary	
Dennis DePerro	
Mike Fossaceca	
Dianne Kuzia Hills	
Jackie Lanzillo	
Greg Licamele	
Terri Marrie	
Tony Minchella	
Amy Moritz	
Karen Pulaski	
Dan Riley, ofm	
Otto Rothermel	
Kate Trosch	
 Mike Fenn	
Joe Kotula, ofm	
Kevin Kriso, ofm	

Opened with prayer.

The “Management Team” (Kevin, Dan and Mike) will meet before Mike’s surgery to decide on work that needs to be done immediately and who can help get it done. They will also decide on items that can wait until Mike returns.

Discussed coverage during Mike’s absence. As follows:

- Katie – finance and personnel
- Otto – legal
- Jackie – fundraising and advancement
- Paul – buildings and grounds
- The rest of the committee chairs

Strategic Planning:

There has been a search for a professional to guide us through our Strategic Planning process. The team was originally interested in a woman that Dennis DePerro suggested, but she got a full time job. They found a person named Tony Billoni who they interviewed and feel that he is a good fit. He joined in a time of reflection and prayer and asked to stay a few days at the Mountain to get the feel of things, which was very much appreciated by the friars and Mike. They feel that Tony understands us and lives and works much the same way we do with our “Remember, Reflect, Respond” guide. The meeting was very positive and it felt like a good partnership.

Tony's daughter currently attends SBU. He is a graduate of the University of Buffalo and holds a Masters. He likes to talk things through and look at every angle and then match it with a goal. He is very contemplative. Tony is a good match with the pace that we move at with our decision making process. He is genuine and actually participated in our life on the day of the interview instead of just observing.

Dan added that Tony comes from a gifted place, he has no personal or career agenda with this job. He will help with detailed questions and generate a way to look into the future. We are not looking for someone to tell us how to proceed in our life. Dan feels it will be Tony's job to get us going in the direction of our choosing. Tony has internal and external discipline and Dan feels we have a good partner and a very good resource in him. We have good, hard questions ahead and he will have us look in more directions than just the couple we see.

Tony is working on a proposal and we should have it by the end of the week. He understands we are a collaborative organization and wants voices, but is conscious of the numbers of collaborators.

It was asked if there is a timeline yet. Mike said it was too soon to tell as they haven't even been in the same room yet to go through the process. First Tony will be gathering data, starting surveys, etc., and then we can start quickly with some backend work like brainstorming ideas and solutions. It will take time and we really need to be in the same room, not on Zoom.

Once we have the proposal we will see how Board members will participate in the endeavor.

Development Committee:

Jackie stated the Auction is progressing well. Auction items from friars do very well.

We are using a new auction software this year – Silent Auction Pro – which has a lot of capability for us and is much better than EBay. The Athletics Department at SBU uses this software and is working with us to get it set.

It was a record year for the Mountain Fund last year, but today we are already ahead of last year with Mt. Fund donations.

Overnights are low, but we can't have guests.

We are moving forward and talking about major gifts and will focus later on that.

There was a Hurley mailing to ages 45-55 – we got 5 responses that we are in estate plans. And that's a very good response number.

Mike reminded everyone that Giving Tuesday (GT) is coming up and it is always big for us. GT is an increasing success and has been about doubling and is low-maintenance for us.

The Communications Committee (Greg Licamele) has released a "Slice of Life" video. There are three purposes to this video:

1. To tell the Mountain story anew,
2. To invite people to tell their story on the website,
3. It is a deeper call to people who want to be companions or join as friars.

This has been in the works for 1-1.5 years. Will do a slow publicity roll out so it has a longer pace and longer life. Jocelyn Thomas at Holy Name Province will help us distribute it to the US.

Some suggestions/questions:

- ❖ Is there a quick summary of this Board meeting that we can share with the larger community and world telling them what we are discussing and doing in a corporate sense, but also with our spirituality as well? (EX: how do we share info about our solar project?) Perhaps have a quick summary of the Board meetings with key highlights because people want to know. It could be done through email newsletters, social media, etc., to show what's going on in our life and that we are trying to be stewards of the Mountain, what is going on and what you need to know about Mountain life.

Buildings and Grounds:

Paul gave an update on Committee business:

- ❖ Looking to increase broadband and accessibility – moved to satellite with ViaSat. They guaranteed us 35 megabits a second and we are running 24-30 depending on high demand time (especially around 7 pm). Moved what was in the House of Peace to La Paz and that is working well. We are moving to try to incorporate the other buildings so the friars can be in their own space and have Zooms.
 - Paul is going to work with Don Watkins to get the other places improved as long as the strength of the satellite signal is good enough. Should be done over the next few months.
- ❖ Solar Power – Sarino Tropeano and Mike Sullivan were pushing us to move back to solar energy and it fits the life we are leading – clean energy we are striving for.
 - An '88 SBU alumni, Dean Stanfield, works for a very large solar company in New York – had a meeting with him the week before the Board meeting. His estimate came close to the price of what the generator would be for backup purposes. We could be completely solar and feeding the extra into the grid and what we don't use can go into an account for us for low times.
 - Mike asked if there is a way to donate the excess at the end of the year to needy people. There's so much that can come out of this.
 - Another opportunity is to rent land to the solar company (Everybody Solar) for 20 acres minimum to put up solar panels and they will pay us an annual fee of like \$22,000 for 20 acres so we go solar, be green, live the Franciscan life, provide green energy to others and create money to pay for the project (over time). The array is so much smaller than he thought because they are much more efficient now.
 - There is a meeting with Dean on Thursday. Combo of how to pay – 12% through capital institution because we are non-profit; 12% through the solar company discount; timbering would pay for majority if not all of this. Received \$90K (in 2 checks) from timbering.
 - The Vermont land that we sold paid for the internet upgrades.
 - Question for future – is there 20 acres somewhere we would be okay with them renting?
- ❖ Comments/questions:

- Mike Fenn – there might be donors out there too who would want to help.
- Katie stated there could also be grants.
- Kevin Cleary – it quickly pays for itself. The technology has come so far in the last few years.
- Paul – this also includes a battery that can run for about 2 days before recharging.
- Dan – it's where the Mountain wants to be – offering a solution. (We have had the other solar panels about 20 years.)

Kate Trosch made a motion to pass the proposed budget for 2020-21. Dianne seconds. All passed, none opposed.

Bylaws:

Otto sent the bylaws draft out in April and asked for changes and corrections – nobody commented – It can be changed at any point. Otto has been working on it/waiting for 3 years. There was a discussion on this matter and the time it has taken. Mike Fenn, Kevin Kriso and Dan Riley would like to go through them together, which they have not been able to do as of yet.

It was decided to spend time on the bylaws while Mike is recovering from his surgery. Anyone with questions or suggestions get them to Otto immediately. This will be the FIRST item on our agenda at our next meeting so we can get them final and voted on.

Council for Spirit and Life:

Zoom is allowing us to engage students and all others.

Karen reported on a Zoom meeting last summer with the CSL.

- ❖ The biggest take away was for the Council to meet and interact more regularly so that we can maintain and keep each other's energy up.
- ❖ Talked about mini retreats every month or every other.
- ❖ Create some ideas around ways we can take the work forward and not wait for COVID to be over.
- ❖ How do we move the work of the Branches out to a larger opportunity and audience? Ex. – "Mountain and More" Branch - do a video and create a link and send by email to everyone, don't expect them to come to us.
 - Be more of a presence in people's everyday life.
 - Take the work already done and reformat it so that it is available to many more people that cannot be at the Mountain physically for the Wednesday evening reflections.
 - Is there a way that we can do things related to a MOTR?
 - Is there a way to greater utilize the Zoom platform to bring the work of all the Council's Branches out to more people?

Terri added that it was a great meeting and in these times people still need a place to pray and to develop. That is really the goal of most of the people, even in these various little committees on the Council. So next we want to make that kind of place where it can flourish and happen.

Dan talked to Conveners about committing to meeting sooner rather than later so that we can offer an evening for the Council and other sorts of things. He believes this is a blessing and students are already excited about doing this virtually. The Zoom capability is opening things up so we are not limited to just a few people.

Meeting adjourned.

Fr. Dan closed with prayer.