



Greetings Grace Parish:

This past Sunday, I brought the congregation up-to-date on what was happening in the Grace Campus Development Committee (GCDC). After we submitted our proposal to the Portland Housing Bureau, they told us that they needed 9-12 months to consider our proposal – and that Grace should investigate other possibilities in the meantime. We are, therefore, now looking at other ways to finance our project.

In early July, the committee met with Home Forward. They had approached Ross Cornelius and wanted to discuss the possibility of our property serving as the affordable housing piece of a 5 block market rate apartment development in the Lloyd area. The timing may not be right for us on this project, but we will keep it on the radar. In the mean time, we are also looking at proceeding with a more traditional model that is most commonly used to build affordable housing. It is a combination of tax credits, government money and equity. This would involve many different sources of financing and seems pretty complicated. Putting these kinds of projects together is what Home Forward (Housing Authority) excels at. I encourage you to take a look at the St. Francis Park Apartments on 12th and Stark. This affordable housing is a project of Catholic Charities who partnered with Home Forward. A group of us from the GCDC committee visited these apartments and I encourage all of you to take a look too. It's kind of exciting to see a completed project and inspiring to see the St. Francis Parish live what they believe.

Because of two measures on the ballot this November, we are expecting there to be quite a bit of money available the second quarter of 2019 for affordable housing. In the mean time, we as a parish need to clarify what our mission is, what our space needs are, what entities we will partner with and then produce a request for proposals (RFP) that we will share with the development community.

Here are a few things we will be working on in the next month:

1. We will establish a monthly meeting time for development committee meetings. These meetings are open to members of the Parish and we will let everyone know once we have established a time.

2. Provide a notebook with the minutes of all our meetings. I take these minutes, and they are pretty casual, but they will give you more detailed information. I will get this to Jackie sometime this coming week.

3. We have had some interest from the Diocese about relocating to our new building. They have up to five years to find a new location after the sale of the Close. They are also considering several other locations. Rick Grimshaw, the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Diocese has encouraged us to apply for a Grant from the Diocese that would pay for a space plan with Carleton Hart Architecture. We'll be working on that this week.

Please give me a call or email me if you have any questions. Or, contact any of the members of the committee: Martin Elfert, Phillip Koop, Becky Wong, Cameron Denny, Robin Gault, Steven Weeks, Paddy Tillett.

Thank You!

Nancy Entrikin
Chair, GCDC