

Facility Team Meeting Notes

March 12, 2009

Attendance: Pastor Evelyn Dahlke, Tom Fischer, Steve Hinderaker, Susan Mattson, Sally Palm, Pastor Craig Pederson, Peter Radford, Jennifer Schultz, David Raymond, facilitator

1. Devotions were from Luke 14:25 with opening prayer by Pastor Craig
2. Feedback from the congregation about facility:
 - After the annual meeting some people said that they thought Holland had been laid to rest and were surprised to see it on the decision chart.
 - “Why can’t we just fix 13th?” Some members may feel that the \$600,000 the architect estimated is all that is needed.
 - Lots of feedback between the annual meeting and the February 22 presentation but surprisingly little since then. After the annual meeting, based on the chart and the Northeaster article, some felt that Holland was being railroaded. The chart took some people by surprise.
 - Some negative comments about the current situation. “Why did we have to move to Lowry?”
 - Some felt that Dave Raymond talked to long [on Feb. 22] and didn’t allow enough time for discussion and questions.
 - Camden Music School and other tenants concerned about their future.
 - Surprised at how little feedback after February 22.
 - One older member went to Holland School after Feb. 22 and said that he could see how it could work out.
3. Presentation on Shared Campus option history and case studies, followed by photos of Holland School. Discussion of ways that a sanctuary, church-like entry, and other church spaces could fit into the building.
4. Update on potential partners. (Report of Dave’s visit to Emily Grey added to end.)
5. No new reports on 13th or Lowry options?
6. Possible fifth option: inflatable church on 13th sanctuary site. See <http://www.inflatablechurch.com/mainpage.htm> and <http://www.monolithic.com/topics/churches-more>
7. Homework: talk to members, and think about a possible fifth or sixth option.
8. Sally Palm and Peter Radford were elected as co-chairs.
9. Next meeting is Thursday, March 19 at 6:30. Agenda will include time for general discussion, talk about a report to the council on March 24, update on potential partners.
10. The closing prayer was led by Pastor Evelyn.

Rough draft report on visit to Emily Grey by Dave Raymond on February 20, 2009:

I stopped by Emily Grey on my way downtown this afternoon. I figured Friday afternoon is a good time to catch a school at its worst. I said that I was looking for a friend who is moving to town and they gave me a brochure and a quick tour.

Except for a small group of 6th grade boys the kids were all very engaged and purposeful. The capacity is 155 kids in grades K-6, and the current enrollment is 140. Over 90% of the kids are kids of color, mostly African American or African, which is very interesting since the school is sponsored by the Audubon Center of the North Woods near Sandstone, MN. Nice way to upset stereotypes. They said that they have about 18 kids per class. There were two kindergarten classes and may have been two first grade classes, which is a sign that the school may grow if they have a decent retention rate.

They provide door-to-door busing for free, which indicates that a move from SW Minneapolis to Northeast may not hurt them.

Audubon Center has a good reputation, or at least used to. My mother was a good friend of the director when she taught school in Sandstone and the center did a lot with the nearby schools. I know people who have sent their kids to camp there more recently.

The web site, <http://www.emilygreyschool.org/index.html>, has a link to their budget. Unfortunately there is no expense breakdown, but the total revenue is stated at \$2.1 million. I have no idea if they are getting a break on the rent from First Universalist, but I tend to doubt it because that building has had big realtor "for lease" signs in the past. The school is located in an education wing that is somewhat bigger than NEC's. The classrooms are a little smaller than Holland's but not a lot. They seem to be using about 10 classrooms, including one for special ed pullout and one for drumming. They also have use of a huge, very nice multipurpose room with a stage. I assume that Emily Grey might bump their class size a little with bigger rooms.