

Facility Team Meeting Notes

April 2, 2009

Attendance: Pastor Evelyn Dahlke, Tom Fischer, Steve Hinderaker, Sally Palm, Pastor Craig Pederson, Peter Radford, Virginia Schnabel, Jennifer Schultz, Cathie Witzel, and David Raymond, facilitator.

1. Devotions were from Hebrews, with opening prayer by Pastor Craig
2. Sally and Peter talked about the report to the council on March 24. There were questions about taking on a mortgage and concerns about the Banaadir Academy and support for public schools.
3. Dave reported on his conversations with the Administrative Pastor of Cornerstone Church and the assistant director of Lionsgate Academy in Crystal. Cornerstone bought a 1965 elementary school and converted it to a church. It leases to Lionsgate Academy, a charter school. Both agreed to meet with us during a tour of that facility. Dave talked with Tony Scallon, the superintendent of MTCS. MTCS is willing to send NEC a letter of intent regarding a lease.
4. We agreed that we wouldn't recommend Holland unless the following conditions were met:
 - a. A reasonable purchase price
 - b. A stable, established charter school tenant with a long-term lease
 - c. Availability of an adequate mortgage that will be covered by the lease payments
 - d. A contingency plan and reserve fund to reasonably cover situations that might come up in the future, especially until the mortgage is paid off.
 - e. A feasible way to create a beautiful and functional sanctuary in the building
 - f. Interest from suitable social service, community, arts and other compatible users and ministry partners that might share part of the building.
5. We were reminded of the need for a full kitchen, which is part of the Program and Criteria paper.
6. Our discussion brought out the following pros: parking, playground, possibility of a garden, gym, all on one level, the church as part of the community, a less "churchy" building that could be more welcoming to unchurched people, a neighborhood that needs the church and services, flexibility, better spaces due to shared use, few churches in area.
7. We brought out these drawbacks: low visibility in residential area, less identity as a church than a separate building, financial uncertainty because it is so capital intensive, higher impervious surface fee due to parking lot, not "churchy" enough.
8. We brought out three unanswered questions: Will this get us in financial difficulty? Does this show a lack of support for public education? Can the uses in the building be adequately separated?
9. We reviewed the presentation for the information meeting on Sunday, and the questions that will be asked in the round table discussions. Sally and Peter will make the presentation. The handout will basically be the last two pages of the council report plus the Holland floorplan.
10. We will schedule a tour of Holland for the congregation and a tour of MTCS, the Center for Changing Lives, and the Cornerstone Church in Crystal.
11. Pastor Evelyn led the reflections on tonight's meeting and the closing prayer.