



HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 16, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach

Members present: Chris Chryssovergis (Presiding), Peter Aamodt (Recording), Frank Cook, Brad Fielden, Nick Georgiton, Eleni Haralamos, Dr. Anastasios Ioannides, George Kalemanis, Dr. Pete Kambelos, Ron Nichols, John Sakelos, Ianthe Schulte, Andy Stefanopoulos.

Honorary Member: Sophie Guethlein.

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

Guests: Lew Assaley, James Kellaris.

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Father William Cassis gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting.

Presentation: Lew Assaley, Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman, and James Kellaris provided a brief overview of the Parish survey presentation to the upcoming General Assembly. This is the same presentation shared with the Council last November. Five principal areas of raised concerns: welcome/inclusion, communication, facility expansion/improvement, finance and faith/understanding. In response to questions raised, the Council was informed that the most common survey suggestions will be highlighted and that actions already taken will be acknowledged, with further action dependent on Council and/or General Assembly consideration.

MEETING

Call to order: Chris Chryssovergis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

President's remarks:

- Currently, six Council members have yet to make a 2012 stewardship pledge – please do so as soon as possible. In follow-up discussion, opinion was expressed, however, that the absence of a pledge did not imply a lack of stewardship commitment.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: amended January 19, 2012, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- Correspondence/Announcements: No correspondence had been received since the last Council meeting.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - Great Lent begins February 27th. Weekly services include: Great Compline, 7pm Mondays; Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Wednesdays to be followed by a potluck supper and Lenten meditations offered by Fr. Paul; and Salutations, 7 pm Fridays.
 - Wally Wilson has stepped down from coordinating Church tours. Fr. Paul will take over this responsibility.
 - Three consecutive Saturday of the Souls services will begin this Saturday (February 18th) at 9:30 am – no Matins scheduled. A couple of Council members will be needed to serve in the Narthex during these services.
- Fr. Paul:
 - GOYA recently held their most successful Taverna night in several years. Upcoming GOYA activities include a basketball tournament in Dayton this weekend (February 18-19), and a retreat on Lazarus Saturday is being discussed.
 - A recent YAL event was held, which he attended.
 - Preparation for his Lenten meditations is underway.
 - His reading group continues each Monday at 7pm, covering *The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It* by St. Theophan the Recluse. All are welcome.

Treasurer's report:

- The January 2012 financial reports were reviewed. Nick Georgiton noted that, in comparing January to December 2011, three biweekly payrolls posted in December, making monthly expenses appear higher than January in various categories. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.
- Questions raised:
 - Tasos Ioannides asked about the net income position – positive net income of \$26,839.39 is shown for January. However, it should be kept in mind that there is greater stewardship income in January than in most other months and not all income recorded is in the form of available cash.
 - Regarding last year's insurance expense, Fr. Bill inquired as to the Parish's insured value. Per Eugene Nicholas, it was reported at \$8,256,000.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Electricity costs were higher in January by approximately \$1,700 due to implementation of a generation rider recently approved by the Public Utilities of Ohio (PUCO). The Parish contracts with separate energy providers, but all utility customers – commercial and residential – are required to pay. As January is not typically a high-usage month, the Council should expect this additional expense to cost at least \$20,000 this year.

- The finalized performance evaluation procedure has been included in the Parish employee handbook. One evaluation has been completed, which was well received by the employee. Two others are in progress.
- Copier contract negotiations have been concluded. The savings initially expected were not realized after that employee left the company before the contract was concluded.
- Stewardship report: 2012 Stewardship is behind 2011's pace, with the January 2012 total at \$72,567 versus \$85,154 at the end of January 2011.
- Panegyri sponsorship letters have been mailed.
- In follow-up regarding the evaluation process, Tasos Ioannides asked about the confidentiality of the evaluations – the contents of the evaluations are not open to others. with the exception of the Personnel Committee per Ron Nichols.

New business:

- Sunday Church School HVAC units: Brad Fielden moved to procure from Feldkamp Enterprises the replacement of two 7-ton McQuay units in the Sunday School wing. In discussion, Brad reported that the estimate for replacement of two units is approximately \$15,900. One unit must be replaced because of a crack, while some savings will be realized by replacing the other unit now, which is of the same vintage (21 years old), by combining crane costs. Feldkamp is known to be the lowest-cost provider, having bid on other Parish work recently. It will take the company approximately one week to finish the work, in which case SCS could resume Sunday, February 26th. The motion was passed unanimously. In follow-up discussion, the Facilities Committee agreed to update the Council soon on Parish deferred maintenance.
- YAL: Eleni Haralamos moved that the reactivated YAL committee be allocated \$670 from operating funds. This was the amount remaining in the YAL bank account when it was last active at the Parish. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old business:

- Parish Survey: George Kalemanis moved to untable the motion from last month's meeting, which was passed unanimously. The motion again before the Council was to make it the responsibility of each committee to tackle the comments contained in the Parish survey, to create a working agenda based on them and report progress made during 2012. Fr. Bill advised that, unless the General Assembly were to approve action on the survey at the upcoming meeting, referral to committees would be the appropriate path. Chris Chrysosvergis committed to publish the original list and asked committee chairs to take up those recommendations relevant to their respective charges; the Council as a whole will decide on the disposition of the remaining ones and provide follow-up action as needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

- Special events: Upcoming events include the Agape meal, which Sophie Guethlein will organize. Andy Stefanopoulos will organize this year's Car Raffle, with help from Pete Kambelos. The Church Picnic in September and the St. Nicholas day in December are also on the calendar. John Sakelos will accept suggestions for other events.

- Greeter program: Ron Nichols provided an update on the new program, which commenced February 5th. Results have been good so far: visitors have been identified upon entrance, announced at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy and greeted at the designated table during coffee hour. There are 26 volunteers, plus involvement from most Council members, however there remains a potential gap in Council member assignments. He therefore requests that each Sunday's Narthex captain, by Tuesday or Wednesday of the preceding week, designate a member from the assigned team for greeter duty that Sunday.
- Endowment: Nick Georgiton provided the Council with an update. Although the Committee has not held a formal meeting recently, an investment policy has been formulated, along with a default asset allocation to provide guidance to the investment manager. There has been recent market value appreciation, and \$10,000 was recently added back to the account, bringing the investment value to approximately \$300,000. In order to grow funding closer to the \$1 million goal, the Committee will be sponsor a gala on April 28th. Including a visit from His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, suggestions will be shared at this event about various giving opportunities as a way to educate potential participants. In a follow-up question, John Sakelos asked how the fund would be used when the \$1M threshold was reached – an annual 4% draw would become available for designated uses.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Bill gave the closing prayer.

Approved as written,

Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos

Chris Chryssovergis
President

Peter Aamodt
Secretary