



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 20, 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, Ianthe Schulte, Andy Stefanopoulos.

Member absent: John Sakelos.

Members elect: Alex Geromes, Maria Kontopos, Pete Rodish, Nick Sarakatsannis

Honorary Member: Sophie Guethlein.

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Fr. Bill gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting.

MEETING

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

President's remarks: Welcome to the members elect attending the meeting, hoping the next two years will be a wonderful experience. The strength of the Council is found in the different perspectives represented. Thanks also to everyone for the past four years. The council has made much progress even if not accomplishing everything it set out to do. The task for next year's council is to keep the momentum going forward.

President's recognition: Vice President Pete Kambelos thanked Chris on behalf of the entire Council for his service to the Parish community. Parting gifts included a Staples "easy" button, a USB flash drive and an Aladdin's gift card.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the November 15, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- Received correspondence included the monthly newsletter from the Metropolis and an appeal from IOCC.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - Thanks to Chris Chryssovergis for his service as president for the past two years. Thanks also to those Council members rotating off the Council and to the newcomers.
 - His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas plans to make a pastoral visit February 8-10, 2013. His likely itinerary will include dinner with the Council Friday evening and the baptism of Paul Nektarios Truebenbach on Saturday.
 - Christmas services are scheduled for Christmas Eve – Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 8:30 am and Doxology and Divine Liturgy at 7 pm – and Christmas Day – Matins and Divine Liturgy beginning at 8:30 am.
 - It is time for annual clergy housing allowances to be approved by the Council.
 - Continuing council members are responsible for reviewing and signing annually the conflict resolution statement. [Members signed these forms at the meeting.]
 - The oath of office will be administered to the new Council this Sunday [December 23].
- Fr. Paul:
 - Thanks to all at the conclusion of his first full year with the Parish.
 - The move of JOY/HOPE meetings to Friday evenings has been successful.
 - GOYA's recent retreat was very successful and will be repeated for YAL in January.
 - His reading group has gone through two books and is ready to start a new one in January by the Elder Cleopas.
 - The bookstore continues to receive new stock. Beth Uhimchuk has been very helpful in these efforts. All should visit to see the changes made.

Treasurer's report:

- The November 2012 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. As of now, only \$29,000 is still owed to the Endowment fund. The Parish has received \$240,000 in restricted revenues. Cash flow remains positive. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.
- Pete Kambelos asked for a brief explanation of the Archdiocesan assessment for the benefit of new members. – Each Parish is responsible for supporting a portion of the total Metropolis budget. This contribution is based on the Parish's weighted-average percentage of all expenditures, excluding transactions specifically for fundraising and charitable giving, in the Metropolis.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas will be on vacation December 26-28. For plate collections, the checks and cash for each collection should be taken with a deposit slip directly to the bank, not slid under his office door.
- The Parish response to the Christmas outreach appeal has been phenomenal. 157 meals have been arranged so far, covering everyone who was on the waiting list. Ham and pie were given with each one; the first 96 meals included homemade pumpkin bread as well.
- The Parish's two-year contract with FirstEnergy has ended. The renewal may go out three years for a lower rate than currently specified. The fixed-rate gas contract has also expired, and the rate is now being allowed to float. Utilities expense for the year is \$10,000 under budget and about \$6,400 below last year.
- There is still a roof leak in the sanctuary, in the same spot as the recent repair work. Holland Roofing will come out again and try a different fix.
- Accompanying the recent ceiling work has been the switch of many light bulbs to LEDs. The Parish receives rebates for each bulb from Duke, and they are rated to last 30 years.
- The waste disposal in the kitchen failed recently. Replacement cost \$3,300.
- Thanks to Chris Chryssovergis for his hard work on the Council. He has spent a lot of time on the phone counseling Eugene on many projects.

New Business:

- Parish office closing: Andy Stefanopoulos moved that that the Parish office be closed December 24-27. This motion passed unanimously.
- 2013 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly working capital: Peter Aamodt moved to loan the Assembly steering committee \$5,000 in working capital at the beginning of 2013. These funds, which will allow deposits and other start-up expenses to be met, will be repaid before the end of the year. This motion passed unanimously.
- Council Christmas Narthex schedule: the Council on individual assignments for Narthex duty at the various holiday services.
- Clergy housing allowances: Pete Kambelos moved that 2013 annual housing allowances be established for Fr. Bill at \$22,000 and for Fr. Paul at \$10,200. This motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Narthex: Ron Nichols will provide at the next meeting an estimate for the conversion of one of the upstairs rooms to a toddlers' room. Chris Chryssovergis reported that he had spoken to Fr. Bill about other Narthex recommendations. The Pangari will be relocated to the vestibule area, and more exploration of sound attenuation in the Narthex will be explored.

- **Parish Hall renovation:**
 - Peter Aamodt distributed a schedule showing projected costs and revenues associated with the Parish Hall conversion and upgrade options. Fr. Bill reminded all that there will be a capital campaign for the fund raising associated with the project – it is not as though all expenses should be covered from rental revenues, which should increase if the facility were more attractive. Andy Stefanopolous asked if a banquet hall/gymnasium combination would also generate additional revenue – yes, but perhaps not as much revenue in light of the fact that it would still look like a gym. Eugene Nicholas observed that only a finite number of days could be available for bookings and that only groups external to the Parish actually pay rental fees.
 - Discussion ensued as to the referral back to the General Assembly. Pete Kambelos asserted that the Council has solid information in hand ready for the Assembly. Ron Nichols suggested that the Council needed to present its recommendation too, with Andy Stefanopoulos adding that both options should be presented. Chris Chryssovergis suggested that should include consideration of size of the investment given concerns about the state of the local neighborhood.
 - Tasos Ioannides raised questions regarding the assumptions of the cost and revenue schedule. Specifically, are the interest expense calculations correct and the other assumptions valid? It was agreed to revisit the schedule for further consideration at the next meeting.
- **Security system long-term options:** Long-term Parish security options were presented by George Kalemanis, with input from Pete Kambelos and Pete Rodish as well. The goal of such efforts is to reduce crime opportunities. The option of having security cameras has not been ruled out although they are cost-prohibitive (\$11,000-\$15,000). Meanwhile, security guards are doing well. Andy Stefanopoulos asked if there was value in having additional lighting? – yes, but lights are not always on, dependent on timers. To Frank Cook, lighting has not prevented thefts whereas a physical presence seems to offer a better deterrent. Fr. Paul suggested contacting other local parishes and businesses to learn what has worked so far and what hasn't. Consensus was reached to maintain security patrol coverage for Parish events. Eugene Nicholas will obtain quotes to install a perimeter fence.

Committee reports:

- **Stewardship:** Peter Aamodt drew attention to the monthly stewardship handout, showing that 2012 year-to-date stewardship was \$19,000 below 2011, and outlined last-minute efforts to bring that total up before year-end. He also discussed the needed elements for a calling campaign in early 2013.

- Governance: the Governance Committee informed the Council of individuals identified as willing to serve as officers in 2013. The following names will be placed in nomination at the 2013 Council's first meeting:
 - President: Pete Kambelos
 - Vice President: Andy Stefanopoulos
 - Secretary: Maria Kontopos
 - Assistant Secretary: Ianthe Schulte
 - Treasurer: Nick Georgiton
 - Assistant Treasurer: Pete Rodish

Fr. Bill indicated that he has asked Frank Cook to remain on ushering duty next year even though his Council term has expired.

Other:

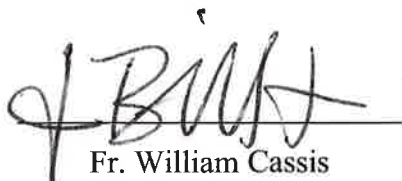
- Members offered good-of-the-Parish comments and observations:
 - Brad Fielden is leaving the Council, thanks all he worked with over the course of two terms.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos endorsed Fr. Paul's reading group. He also thanked Chris Chryssovergis for his service.
 - Peter Aamodt wished all a Kala Christouyenna.
 - Ianthe Schulte thanked both old and new Council members.
 - Pete Kambelos thanked Brad for his renovation report and Chris Chryssovergis for his service.
 - Tasos Ionannides reminded the leaving members that they were only required to wait a year before rejoining the Council.
 - Frank Cook thanked each Council member individually for unique contributions.

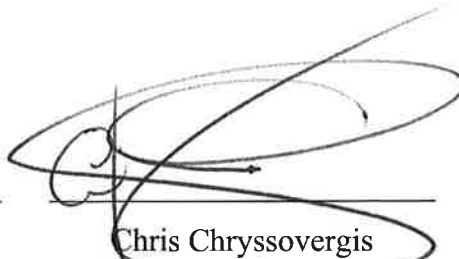
ADJOURNMENT

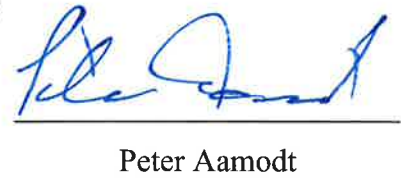
Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 8:44 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,


Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos


Chris Chryssovergis
President


Peter Aamodt
Secretary