



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach.

Members present: Dr. Pete Kambelos (Presiding), Maria Kontopos (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Nick Georgiton, Alex Geromes, Eleni Haralamos, George Kalemanis, Ron Nichols, Pete Rodish, Nick Sarakatsannis, Ianthe Schulte, Andy Stefanopoulos.

Member absent: John Sakelos.

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

PRE-MEETING

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

Tour of Church: Chris Jonson gave a tour of the Church facility for the new Parish Council members.

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm.

President's remarks: Thanks everyone for the attendance and Sam's Club for the meal. He will do his best to make meetings as short as possible. Welcomes new members and thanks everyone for willingness to serve the Parish. There are challenges and exciting opportunities in the coming year. Exciting opportunities include hosting the 2013 Metropolis Clergy-Laity and hiring a new assistant. Challenges include the reduction in stewardship and the security around the Church. We are blessed with a cooperative group on Council this year. Parish Council contact information will be sent out by email. Members must reach out to each other for coverage for Narthex duty. We must also see to the orderly execution of Communion. The Communion leader is determined by the Narthex captain every Sunday. Fr. Paul will remind the Parish on Sunday the proper order for Communion.

Narthex; Greeter Duty Schedule; Procedure: Clarified whether to allow Parishioners to enter the Nave in between the Epistle and the Holy Gospel. We assume that it is not appropriate because the two readings are so close together. Fr. Bill clarified that he does not want people to

come in between the two readings unless a large group of people have accumulated in the Narthex and need to be cleared out.

Committee Descriptions: Eugene Nicholas revised the committee list. Committee chair person can revise the descriptions as necessary. Committee leadership is very important. Members are encouraged to look at the descriptions and send an email with committee preferences.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the December 20, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- Received correspondence included a letter from former Parish Council President Chris Chryssovergis thanking the Parish Council for their service.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Paul:
 - GOYA has moved to one event and one business meeting per month
 - Monday night reading group has been going very well
 - Taverna Night is February 23, 2013. This is a fundraiser for GOYA. There will be Greek music, food and an auction. A letter will be mailed out next week.

Treasurer's report:

- The December 2012 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. Eugene Nicholas prepares these statements. Nick Georgiton explained the meaning of the balance sheet and the revenue and expense statement. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.
- Andy Stefanopoulos asked for a brief explanation of the restricted funds adjustment. Nick Georgiton believes it is the investment portion that deals with returns. Eugene Nicholas will get the return on investment on the endowment fund for the next meeting.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas presented the financial summaries from last year and explained that our best form of revenue comes from donations and stewardship. We were \$31,000 off in revenue for the 2012 budget.
- The reimbursement to the endowment fund should be paid by May 10, 2014. The 2012 Parish Council agreed that Non-Specified Legacy Donations are going to the Endowment Fund. The 2013 Parish Council may want to do this also.
- We have a \$150,000 line of credit available from North Side Bank. It will be up for renewal in March. North Side Bank is favorable and easy to work with. It will probably revert back to \$250,000; it was reduced to \$150,000 because to get an appraisal on the building will be expensive.
- There is still a roof leak in the sanctuary. Buckets have been placed underneath the leaks to determine whether the roof leak has been remedied. Still under warranty with Holland Roofing.

- We need to start focusing on the Panegyri. We need to find new chairmen for Admissions, Security and Pastries. Jason Hayden with parking needs help. He promised us two years, but he will not give us another year if he does not have the proper help. Peter Aamodt suggested having 3-4 people to guide the cars on the property during the festival.
- Reminded Members that we need two people in the counting room throughout the entirety of the Divine Liturgy. There should be the Treasurer and two additional people. Fr. Bill reminds the Members to never leave one person alone with the money. Nick Georgiton suggested having the same people consistently count money instead of rotating people every Sunday.

New Business:

- Metropolitan NICHOLAS visit: Dinner scheduled for February 8, 2013 at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse. Fr. Paul's baby Nektarios baptism is scheduled for February 9, 2013. His Eminence Metropolitan NICHOLAS will be here for the February 10, 2013 Divine Liturgy. There will be a luncheon after the Liturgy.
- Honorary Parish Council Designation: Alex Geromes moved to have Jim "Pete" Kappas be elected as an honorary Parish Council Member. Other honorary members include Sophie Geuthlein and Lou Parsenios. Members outlined the honorary members' duties. Duties do not include handling money. Also, current Members should not assume that an honorary member will cover their duties. Motion unanimously passed.
- MEFGOX Choir Convention Luncheon: Will be held July 18-21. Janice Kellaris asked the Parish Council to support the convention by sponsoring a luncheon on that Saturday. The luncheon will host approximately 125 people. Motion to sponsor a luncheon was unanimously passed.

Old Business:

- Picture Directory Update: Eleni Haralamos received information from Universal Church Directories. A meeting is scheduled for the following week to schedule photo taking sessions. Better advertisement will get us to the goal and we will give incentives to get photos taken. We need 250 families to receive a hardback book. We will solicit volunteers to help oversee the sign-up booth. Suggested that Fr. Bill make an announcement to expect a phone call from the committee to schedule photo sessions. Ianthe Schulte and Maria Kontopos are co-chairing.
- Toddler Room Update: Ron Nichols reported the estimated cost is \$4,500-\$5,000 for 117 square feet. This room is north of the choir loft. Renovations include new light fixtures, new HVAC, ceiling diffusers, suspended ceiling, new carpet and fresh paint for the walls. Ron Nichols makes the motion to authorize to expense in moving forward. Peter Aamodt seconds. Discussion with whether this renovation is necessary and how children will knock on the window disturbing the Liturgy. Fr. Bill reminded Members that we need to make this building accessible to everyone. We need to give mothers with an unruly child somewhere to go. The renovation was initially for both sides (baby room and toddler room). Mother's Club assumed half of the cost. Motion passed with George Kalemanis, Pete Rodish, Nick Sarakatsannis, and Andy Stefanopoulos opposing the motion.

- Facility Security. George Kalemanis thinks that security cameras are a good idea. There is no quote yet for fencing. This is something that can be included in the hall renovation project. This issue will be carried over to the next meeting.
- Hall Renovation Update. Presented last month. Calculations have been corrected. The General Assembly asked us to determine which choice was the best. After that, the General Assembly is left to decide. The report reflects the renovation as financed, though we will most likely secure donations. It is estimated that we will get a return on investment for renovation of the hall, but not a renovation of the gym. Any renovation must be approved by Metropolitan NICHOLAS, who will require proof of fundraising, the amount we have raised and the amount we need before the loan. The motion to accept the estimated comparison as presented by Nick Georgiton and to present it to the Spring General Assembly meeting was unanimously approved. New building chairman will contact Sam Boulmetis for a rendering of each option for the Spring General Assembly Meeting.

Committee reports:

- Stewardship: We were below our goal in Stewardship this year as compared to last year. We are approximately \$30,000 below budget. Worrysome that we have this high of a deficit so early in the year. Fr. Bill shared a report from the Archdiocese on the importance of stewardship. Andy Stefanopoulos wants to remain on the stewardship committee. Peter Aamodt will join. Alex Geromes suggested a stewardship catch phrase with a personal theme that reflects home, love, fellowship, and financial support for the future of our church and children.
- Outreach: First toddler Christmas party went well. YAL will have a bowling event on January 25, 2013.
- 2013 Metropolis Clergy-Laity: Will be held September 28, 2013.

Other:

- Members offered good-of-the-Parish comments and observations:
 - George Kalemanis: Praised everyone for a good meeting and thanked Dr. Pete Kambelos for the food.
 - Alex Geromes: Thanked the Members for a good meeting and for the food.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos: Praised Dr. Pete Kambelos for conducting a marvelous first meeting.
 - Ianthe Schulte: Thanked Dr. Pete Kambelos for the dinner. Encouraged the Members to do as much as they can with the money trays and to stay until the money is deposited in the blue bag.
 - Fr. Bill: Reminded the Members not to neglect the new welcome flyer.
 - Fr. Paul: Praised Dr. Pete Kambelos for a great first meeting
 - Nick Georgiton: Commented that the meeting was run very well and the room had a positive atmosphere. Believes this will be a great Parish Council and many things will get accomplished.
 - Peter Aamodt: Supports the comments Ron Nichols made regarding teamwork in the Narthex. He supports the team schedule.

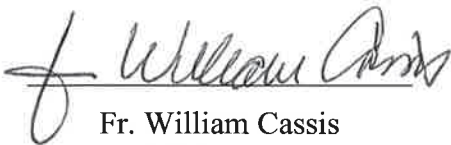
- Maria Kontopos: Thanked the Members for a nice first meeting
- Ron Nichols: Reminded the Members that the Narthex Committee Assignments are the primary role of the Parish Council. Clarified that it will be “all hands on deck” during Holy Week and Pascha.
- Pete Rodish: Loved the debates during the meeting and believes we have a great Parish Council and is honored to be a Member. Reiterated that it is important to have enough people in the counting room during and after Liturgy.
- Nick Sarakatsannis: Mentioned that he is normally serving in the choir during Liturgy, but can help in the counting room if needed.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos: Thrilled to preside over this group. He believes that it will be a successful year. He thanks Ron Nichols for his well-placed comments regarding teamwork.
- Eugene Nicholas: Reminded everyone that Panegyri is 161 days.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 9:21 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary