



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7000 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 • Tel.: (513) 591-0030 • Fax: (513) 591-0043
Web: www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org • Email: gopriest@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting Minutes April 18, 2013

ATTENDANCE

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

Members present: Dr. Pete Kambelos (Presiding), Maria Kontopos (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Nick Georgiton, Alex Geromes, George Kalemanis, Pete Rodish, John Sakelos, Nick Sarakatsannis, Ianthe Schulte.

Member absent: Eleni Haralamos, Ron Nichols, Andy Stefanopoulos

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

Featured Guests: Lewis Assaley, Members of the Long Range Planning Committee

PRE-MEETING

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

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

President's remarks: Thank you to George Kalemanis for the meal. Thank you to Karen Aamodt for providing dessert for Peter Aamodt's birthday. Happy birthday to Peter Aamodt.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the March 21, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- Received correspondence included the Shepard's Staff newsletter.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - The BRIDGES awards dinner is on May 2, 2013. Father Bill asked the Parish Council to make a motion to approve the purchase of the four (4) tickets as a contribution. The cost is \$195/ticket. The Parish Council generally purchases the four (4) tickets to send representatives from our Church. This motion will be raised under new business.

- Father Bill informed the Parish Council that we have a potential Lay Assistant candidate. He wants to bring him in for a visit after Pascha but before the Panegyri. His name is Jordan Sinetis and he is from Tennessee. He is graduating from the seminary on May 18 and has a very impressive Curriculum Vitae. Normally the candidate will have a separate dinner with the Parish Council and then another separate meeting with other organizations from the Church. Then he has a chance on Sunday to chant and speak. At that point we make the decision to bring him to the Church. His salary will likely be \$36,000 plus benefits. We still need to discuss about automobile allowance.
- Father Bill distributed a list of the Trays for Holy Week. The Parish Council discussed the order of the trays and the order of the Good Friday Procession.
- Father Bill informed the Parish Council that each member needs to sign up for Narthex duty for the remainder of Lent and Holy Week.
- Father Bill discussed sending emails regarding Church issues. He informed the members that we must be on time for Pangari duty. Parish Council members are required to be there. If a member chooses not to be on duty, then that member should resign from the Parish Council. The Parish Council is not a money collector; we are money exchangers. The money is an offering to the Church. We should accept with gratuitous hearts the gifts people make to the Church. We are also there to welcome people. Dr. Pete Kambelos echoes Father Bill's comments that the Parishioners like to see a smiling face when they enter the Church. Eugene Nicholas will distribute keys to the Parish Council members so each member can have access to the Pangari door. Further, just because people are not Greek does not mean they are not welcome.
- Fr. Paul:
 - YAL had their retreat with Father Daniel from the Russian Orthodox Church. There was not great attendance, but Father Daniel said he knows a lot of adults from his Parish that did not feel like they were "young adults" so they did not attend the retreat. Father Daniel suggested doing an adult retreat that is sponsored by YAL.
 - GOYA attended Fall Creek Falls. It was a great time with a great group. Attendance was down, but it was down for every GOYA group.
 - Reading group has started a new book. It is practical and good for Lent. The group is meeting at 6:00pm during Lent in order to adjourn in time for 7:00pm service.

Treasurer's report:

- The March 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas emailed his report in advance of the Parish Council meeting.
- Current North Side Checking balance is \$1,900.

- Line of Credit tapped this week for \$17,000. All funds have been spent.
- The compressor in the walk-in refrigerator seized up last Friday. The replacement cost \$5,100. Funds taken from Emergency Fund.
- March Stewardship was \$9,100 more than last year's March. This is great news considering that Easter was earlier last year.
- We covered all of our expenses in March through Ordinary & Fundraising Revenues.
- Panegyri sponsorship is coming in slowly. We have received \$2,900 so far. Eugene Nicholas has secured Gaslight Property as a sponsor of our stage. We will be receiving almost half the cost of the stage & sound system rental.
- Utilities were lower than usually in March because we received a donation from Philoptochos. This was partially used to reimburse utilities used for their Sweet Treats Sale.
- We received the new rates for the Clergy medical plan. The rate went up 10% which is lower than the national average. We budgeted for a 6% increase. Overall with the increase in my insurance, our health insurance costs will be about \$3,500 over budget. This does not account for the Lay Assistant because we don't have any firm numbers on that yet.

Old Business:

- Great Lent and Holy Week Schedule:
 - On Saturday of Lazarus we will have the annual blood drive. We need to take off the cushions from the pews in order to not get candle wax on them. We will replace them after Easter. We need to set up chairs in the Narthex for the overflow Parishioner traffic.
 - On Palm Sunday we will have a luncheon and the Mother's Club will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt.
 - Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday are lesser attended services.
 - Holy Wednesday morning at 8:00am is lightly attended. Eugene Nicholas can handle it. The 3:00pm service is the abbreviated service. It is heavily attended and designed for the elderly and younger crowds. The 7:00pm service is the full service.
 - Holy Thursday services include 6:00am and 7:00pm
 - Good Friday morning service is a reading service. The afternoon service has a number of elderly and children. Parishioners will begin to crawl underneath the Epitaphios. The evening service is lengthy and we have the procession around the Church.
 - Holy Saturday morning is heavily attended. Parish Council members attending the evening service should arrive at the Church at 9:00pm.
 - Eugene Nicholas will be gone all of Palm Sunday weekend. Chris Jonson will secure the security for Holy Week.
- General Assembly Meeting Update:
 - The April General Assembly meeting will be held in the small hall.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos starts the conversation by saying that this is a sensitive issue for many people. His personal feeling is that this neighborhood is not very safe

and in the next 20-50 years should not be the place for the Parish. He is not looking for an endorsement, nor will he express this at the April General Assembly meeting. He reminded the Parish Council members that we were tasked with conducting research and to come up with options on what to do with the current gymnasium. We have accomplished this request. We were not tasked to come up with a new recommendation. Fast forward to last month's Parish Council meeting with the presentation by the Long Range Planning Committee. Their "Option 3" was not part of what the General Assembly asked the Parish Council to do. He informs the Parish Council that when we go back to the General Assembly, he will represent to the General Assembly that we have executed the task that was asked of the Parish Council, and if the Parish Council chooses to endorse an option that is without his consent and it is going a step further than what the Parish Council was asked to do. Dr. Pete Kambelos says that expenditures of this magnitude are not best made by the number of people in this room. This should be decided by the body of this Church because they are the ones ultimately paying for it.

- Peter Aamodt suggests that we should see if there is a majority in the Parish Council to making a recommendation of the three options. Making a recommendation does not take the option away from the General Assembly to make the decision. We should not take the recommendation as binding. The General Assembly should have strong opinions and they should not feel that they are undermining the Parish Council if they speak against us. He suggests that we state that "the majority of the Parish Council believes this is the best option."
- Maria Kontopos suggests that whether we decide to endorse an option or not, the Parish Council should be united in support of that decision.
- John Sakelos understands Dr. Pete Kambelos' position, but before he can recommend an option he wants to vote on it. The motion was for the Parish Council to explore the feasibility of converting the gymnasium into a banquet hall. The third option of doing both was not a vision at the time of the October General Assembly meeting.
- Peter Aamodt says that we should not neutralize any option. The General Assembly asked the Parish Council to explore the options and we will present them.
- Nick Georgiton states that we have a responsibility to listen to the people who are talking to us, whether it be the Long Range Planning Committee or the Parishioners. He is open to changing his opinion and requests that the Parish Council members consider that as well. He wants to do what is best for this Church. Option 3 is a reasonable solution even though it is not what he wants. He is happy to go with whatever this body chooses after a lengthy discussion.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos states that we need more time to study the facts, not just what we have been told. He cannot endorse Option 3 and sleep at night.
- Ianthe Schulte agrees that we have only heard one proposal and we can hear multiple suggestions and different price points. However, we are not endorsing

any plan. We are asking the Parishioners what they want and we can go forward from there. We can then entertain other proposals and pricing points.

- Father Bill says that in defense of the Long Range Planning Committee, they do not expect us to look at these proposals with blinders. These plans have been submitted to Reece Campbell, who has a vested interest because they are a part of this Parish. If this passes, we can revisit the prices, but this information is not put forward to mislead. This information has been put before people who have knowledge of this type of work.
- Nick Sarakatsannis understands that we are worried about the future of the Parish and the location. We built this Church and this is OUR Church. He does not think we should go anywhere and he does not think we will. He does not think anyone wants to leave this location. If anything benefits this Church, it is growing here where we are currently located.
- Father Bill explains that in terms of moving out of this neighborhood, we can look to Columbus and Chicago. Columbus expanded right next door. In Chicago, the neighborhood got so bad that they had to abandon the building.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos clarifies that he never said that he will ask the General Assembly to move the Church. He is only asking to study this further before we come forth with a recommendation. Being cautious is neither complacent nor is it consistent with lack of leadership. He will endorse what the General Assembly decides, but he does not think that this body has the knowledge to go forth and endorse it.
- Ianthe Schulte suggests that we either endorse Options 1 or 2, but present Option 3 with the disclaimer that we cannot endorse that option because we have not had enough information.
- Long Range Planning Committee Update: Lew Assaley explained the Long Range Planning Committee's plan for the General Assembly meeting.
 - The Planning Committee was tasked with two (2) things: 1) examine what usage is made by Parish organizations and 2) what are the potential uses for the facility and whether we should renovate.
 - Part of the Long Range Planning Committee's job is to look out five + years. If we convert the gymnasium into a banquet facility, you eliminate the gymnasium aspect where the children play, where organization meet, and the Panegyri. If we choose the banquet hall, we should look down the road and see what is better and propose a more long range option. This is where Option 3 comes from.
 - It is better to borrow now and do everything at one time to have one big construction project. If we choose Option 1, it leaves the option open to make another gymnasium down the line. Choosing Option 2 makes building the new gymnasium null and void. There is a benefit to keeping construction together, but it will probably be the same cost.
 - If we get a 2/3 vote on anything, we will need to appoint a fundraising committee to create a fundraising plan. It might be easier to get bigger numbers at one time because you can give naming rights to certain areas.

- It is the unanimous decision of the Long Range Planning Committee to go with Option 3.
- Peter Aamodt says that it is important to make a motion that the Parish Council endorses Option 3.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos exercised his executive privilege to state his opinion that he will absolutely not endorse Option 3
 - Father Bill says that the issue is to navigate this group on where we plan to be. He is always in favor of expansion and he predicates that on the unwavering faith in the community. He does not have an objection to making a recommendation.
 - Peter Aamodt makes a motion that we support and endorse the Long Range Planning Committee's unanimous decision of renovating the hall to a banquet facility and adding the gymnasium, which is a total of \$2 million estimated cost.
 - Nick Georgiton seconds the motion.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos does not want to be labeled as hasty. Ianthe Schulte wants to recommend renovating the gym and supporting the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation for Option 3.
 - Motion passed 5-4
 - Peter Aamodt, Ianthe Schulte, Alex Geromes, John Sakelos and Nick Georgiton voted in favor; Maria Kontopos, Nick Sarakatsannis, Pete Rodish and George Kalemanis voted against.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos states that he will exercise executive privilege and tell people how he feels. He thinks this is fiscally irresponsible and he thinks this is a mistake.

New Business:

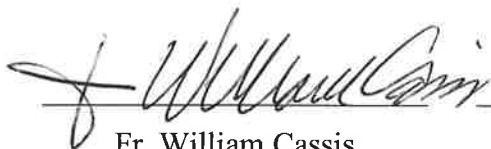
- Motion to approve the purchase of the four (4) tickets for BRIDGES awards dinner was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

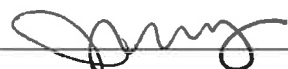
Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 9:31 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary