



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 22, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis

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

Member absent: Fr. Paul Truebenbach

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

Honorary Members: Frank Cook

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Frank Cook gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting.

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

President's remarks: Dr. Pete Kambelos thanked Maria Kontopos and her mother for the meal. He informed the Parish Council that we have paid off our debts, so one of the things that he has advocated early on was the repayment of what we owed to the Endowment Fund. Everyone on Parish Council should be commended for their efforts for seeing that through. We have been fortunate to have paid off our mortgage. We have a Special General Assembly Meeting approaching. It is our responsibility as a Parish Council to get the community interested in this. The decisions made at this meeting will affect generations of parishioners to come. It is incumbent to get people to attend. We will write an article for The Voice and publish it in the Sunday bulletin. Hopefully Father Bill will make periodic announcements after Divine Liturgy. People that want to vote at this Special General Assembly Meeting need to have at least 75% paid on their stewardship pledge. The meeting is September 15, 2013.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the June 20, 2013 meeting as presented by Ianthe Schulte were unanimously approved as corrected.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - Father Bill has no report.

Treasurer's report:

- The July 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email. Andy Stefanopoulos made a motion to approve the July 2013 financial statements, Ron Nichols seconded the motion. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas emailed his report in advance of the Parish Council meeting.
- Food Pantry:
 - We distributed milk and eggs to 60 families last week.
 - Eugene informs the Parish Council that other food pantries in the area have closed. Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that it might be a good idea to put in The Voice/Sunday Bulletin that all of the other food pantries in the area have closed. Eugene Nicholas suggests that the Outreach Committee write the article. Eleni Haralamos says that she will write the article. Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that we pass a second tray to the extent for the extra donations to the food pantry.
- Cash Flow:
 - Currently, we have about \$39,000 left in Panegyri revenue remaining. This is a little over half a month's expenses. There are a few reasons why we exhausted the profit so quickly: (1) we retired our construction loan (\$25,000) early in order to save approximately \$700 in interest charges; (2) we paid off the Line of Credit (\$17,000); (3) we transferred funds due to the Emergency Fund (\$4,200) for the months of February through June; (4) we transferred donations received for the Endowment Fund (\$54,100) that we used instead of borrowing more from the Line of Credit prior to the Panegyri.
 - These items total \$100,300. If we project out our revenues and expenses through the end of the year, it appears we may have approximately a \$50,000 shortfall. A sellout Cadillac Raffle and an active Stewardship drive would help offset this deficit.
- Budget Meeting:
 - The Finance and Human Resources committees will be meeting next week to work on a budget to bring to next month's Parish Council meeting.
- Building Issues:
 - Three areas of our roof have been identified as needing attention. The area directly over the gym, the area over the carpeted area in the gym, and the area over the Sunday Church School building.
 - We currently have a leak over the Sunday School Building. We can proceed with the Sunday Church School building immediately. Financing of the two larger areas should be discussed.
 - Eugene Nicholas suggests we have a capital improvement fundraising drive.

- The leak over the Alter area has still not been fixed. Holland Roofing is working on it under our warranty.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos says that he will write a letter for the next Voice outlining the grave need to help satisfy the repairs that must be undertaken. This is not an optional project. Otherwise there will be more damage that needs to be repaired.

Old Business:

- Lay Assistant Update:
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos informed the Parish Council that the potential candidate we brought to Church took another job in Pittsburgh. We are hopeful with the new graduating class that there will be other candidates.
- Toddler Room Update:
 - Ron Nichols informs the Parish Council that there has been some progress made on the Toddler Room. He suggests that mid-October should be a reasonable timeframe to have this project completed. After this project is over, it should be communicated throughout the community that this room is available for certain children.

New Business:

- Clergy-Laity Conference:
 - We are on for September 24-28, 2013. There are 106 delegates already confirmed. We have received enough cash to cover the banquet costs; anything else that comes in will now be a profit.
 - The Metropolitan came down and reviewed the schedule and banquet and he was very pleased.
 - A schedule should get out within the next two weeks to the parishioners. September 1, 2013 is the deadline to order tickets. Eleni Zaferes ask Eugene Nicholas to give her a list of the people who will attend the banquet. Parish Council members must let Eugene know by this Sunday if we want to attend the banquet.
- Special General Assembly Meeting:
 - Andy Stefanopoulos informs the Parish Council that we are putting together a letter and drawings of what the proposed building will look like. He thinks Sam Boulmetis had a good idea of not calling it a gym, but a recreational fellowship hall. The agenda and the rules on who can vote will be going out to the parishioners soon.
 - The building renovation is the only thing on the agenda. We invite the members of this parish to speak. Sam Boulmetis will make the presentation on the building. Nick Georgiton or Lew Assaley will make a presentation on the finances. September 15, 2013 will be the meeting immediately after church. We will pick a chairperson to run the meeting that morning.
- Fire Extinguishing System:

- Nick Sarakatsannis informs the Parish Council that the fire extinguishing system is out of compliance. Eugene Nicholas tells the Parish Council that it has been taken care of. Chris Johnson is waiting on the bids.
- Thanksgiving Day Dinner:
 - Peter Aamodt informs the Parish Council that there has been an expressed interest in hosting a Thanksgiving Day dinner in conjunction with our food pantry. Karen Aamodt told him that we can schedule it early enough in the day so we can be home early enough to be with our families, but it is consistent with our mission with the food pantry. It would be wonderful to get the endorsement of the Parish Council and if members helped with this event.
 - Father Bill says that if we have the right people to chair the event, then we can get the blessing to move forward. There is no reason we cannot accomplish the logistics with the amount of parishioners that are involved with restaurants, etc.
 - Peter Aamodt makes a motion that the Parish Council endorses the proposal to have a Thanksgiving Day meal served to our food pantry patrons on Thanksgiving Day and to provide the logistical support as needed. George Kalemanis seconds the motion.
 - Father Bill says that all of the food has been donated in the past for the care packages that are distributed. If we put the announcement out that we need donations, parishioners will donate.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that we pass a special tray to support this cause.
 - Father Bill informs the Parish Council that a number of Orthodox churches that do this treat the people like patrons. They have table cloths, napkins, etc. They do not treat them as people who are seeking assistance; they are treated like our brothers and sisters.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Maintenance Committee:
 - Nick Sarakatsannis informed the Parish Council about the swing set outside. The insurance company suggests that we get it fixed.
 - He looked at the swing set and has some personal comments. He likes it and thinks it serves a purpose, but he has never seen children play on it. It is in good condition, but it might need some stain.
 - The insurance company suggested that we put mulch underneath it. It will cost approximate \$9000 to put in the mulch.
 - The insurance company has been very good to us, so we do not want to ignore their suggestions.
 - Nick suggests that this would be a good project for the men's ministry to clean it out. It is unsafe (if someone hits the ground, it is too hard). The Mother's Club donated it, so we need to bring it to their attention if we tear it down or need to update it.

- Nick Georgiton states that no one has seen anyone on it. It is a liability for anyone playing on it, especially someone from the neighborhood. Father Bill stated that there is a decline in Mother's Club enrollment and he has only seen neighborhood kids use it.
- Pete Rodish volunteers to call Cathy Stavros on Mother's Club to see if anyone would be upset if we took it down and if she knows anyone that wants it.
- Andy Stefanopoulos makes a motion that we remove the swing set outside contingent upon Mother's Club approval. Pete Rodish seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- Nick Sarakatsannis informs the Parish Council that the repair of the brass plates is done and the pieces of the tile are being brought. The company that will repair the big piece of tile where the foundation settled is coming out next week. It should be done before the Clergy-Laity.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos commends Nick Sarakatsannis for doing a great job in executing these responsibilities. He is sadly disappointed in the failure of the previous Councils, himself included, to rectify these problems. For purposes of future Parish Councils, we hold our building managers to their responsibilities.
- Car Raffle:
 - Andy Stefanopoulos informed the Parish Council that we are about 75 tickets behind from last year. We have sold 325 and 880 were distributed.
 - We will start the phone campaign and follow up with people we have mailed tickets to. Eugene Nicholas and Andy Stefanopoulos went through a list of 250 tickets that we mailed out to people. Andy will get a message out that if you did not receive a ticket in the mail, to please call the Church or Andy to get one.

Good of the Order:

- Andy Stefanopoulos: Thank you for the meal. Good seeing all of you here
- Ron Nichols: One thing we do well is bring our own opinions and are able to state how we feel without having to battle. I appreciate hearing different perspectives. We should have a point of view as a Parish Council. It does not prevent us from being able to express how we feel about it, pro or con.
- John Sakelos: Let's kick it back a month to Panegyri because I am responsible for the finances. There is no doubt that people come back year after year and they are appreciative our efforts. I also think that the financials boil down to weather. This year's festival was great and I just want to remind everyone to start thinking ahead because it is the 40th anniversary and I want to enhance the festival so people realize that it is an exciting year. Thanks for dinner.
- Maria Kontopos: Thank you for a great meeting.
- Peter Aamodt: I am excited for the growth opportunities: 1) the special General Assembly Meeting in September. It is not a matter of whether there is a majority of those who will attend, the question is whether we will have 2/3 majority. I respect those who disagree but it is important that we are all there to have our voices heard. 2) Clergy-Laity is a great

opportunity. If you have not been to the Marriott, we will show off Cincinnati the way it should be shown. Everything will click very well.


- Nick Georgiton: I watched a special about two years ago on our Patriarch Bartholomew and he is the green patriarch. He will be happy about the recycle bin.
- Frank Cook: Thank you for dinner and your mother for dinner. As sitting here as a fly on the wall, I am happy to report this is an Orthodox group and it does not change
- Father Bill: Pass
- Nick Sarakatsannis: I hope Father Bill will comment on what is going is going on in Egypt. 60 churches have been torched.
- Ianthe Schulte: Can we just put a fence around the recycling bin?
- Eleni Haralamos: Asks for an opinion on the photo directory- it is about done, we are just waiting for a couple pictures from the Clergy-Laity. I was thinking of setting myself up in coffee hour in the next couple weeks and telling people that they can still get their pictures taken.
- Pete Rodish: Thanks for the meal. It is great that we can have discussions within these walls and when we walk out we all are on the same team (somewhat) and can be fellow parishioners and do well for the good of the church.
- Eugene Nicholas: Buy one car raffle ticket and sell one and we will be done with the car raffle.
- Alex Geromes: There was a lot of clean up after the Panegyri- my thought is to have older GOYAns and older Alter Boys to come by and help clean. If we have some of the younger kids, it will help and they can get a feel for what the church is about.
- George Kalemanis: Thanks for the meal. It was really good.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos: When we look around to what is happening in Egypt, we do not have problems compared to there so we should be thankful for the fact that we do not.


ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 8:52 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,


Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos


Dr. Pete Kambelos
President


Maria Kontopos
Secretary