



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes March 21, 2013

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Member absent: George Kalemanis, Eleni Haralamos

Honorary Member: Frank Cook

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

Featured Guests: Lewis Assaley, Sam Boulmetis

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 6:58 pm.

President's remarks: Kali Sarakosti to everyone. Thank you to Pete Rodish and Eugene Nicholas for the meal. Congratulations to Eleni Haralamos for the birth of her daughter. We still need a Panegyri chairperson to help Eugene Nicholas and Frank Cook. We still need to secure all chairmen, coordinate the signing efforts, finalize the radio advertisements and run the special meetings. Frank Cook has talked to everyone at the end of last year's festival, but we need to confirm that everyone is in place. We also still need a security and admissions chairperson.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- There was no received correspondence this month.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - We are at the beginning of Great Lent. There are services on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Wednesdays and Fridays are good to have Parish Council Members in the Narthex because there is higher attendance.
 - Father Bill and Father Paul are trying to visit all shut-ins on a monthly basis. If anyone hears of a new shut-in, please pass along their name to be added to the list. The Church tries to update this list every six (6) months
 - The Holy Week schedule is available. At the April meeting we will have the list for procession on Good Friday and the order of the trays.
- Fr. Paul:
 - Little change from last month. The reading group is finishing a book now, so it is a good time to join. The Lenten discussion series on Wednesdays after service is the Book of Isaiah. Andy Stefanopoulos gave another pitch for the Monday night reading group.
 - The deadline to register for Fall Creek Falls is March 25, 2013.

Treasurer's report:

- The February 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 informed the Members that Panegyri sponsorship mailing has gone out. He has secured sponsorship for all of our olive oil needs with Mt. Kofinas Olive Oil. He is negotiating with Gaslight Properties for sponsorship of the stage. This year's poster should be selected by the end of next week. We need someone to count the yard signs. The Men's Ministry should be cleaning the signs next month.
- We can no longer hang the banner over Winton Road next to St. Vivian's.
- We have not gotten any response for an Admissions chairperson. Eugene has spoken with Dean Geier regarding security, however he is waiting to hear from the National Guard about his training schedule. If there is no conflict, Dean will be the security chairperson.
- City Beat Readers have chosen us as the best festival again this year. It has not been announced yet. It will be in the "Best Of" issue in a few weeks.
- The Voice deadline is the first Sunday of each month. Eugene needs submissions in a timely manner to layout the publication. This includes article, announcements and any advertisements. The Parish Council meetings are always on the third Thursday of every month. If anyone needs Eugene's assistance with a report or gathering information, please ask as soon as possible.

New Business:

- Ron Nichols made a motion for the Acoustical Spray Plaster Cost Estimate. This would only affect the ceiling in the Narthex and it is an attempt to reduce the noise in the

Narthex. The ceiling is approximately 1,200 feet. This spray should cost \$3,000-\$5,000 to get it completed. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Frank Cook offered comments regarding the Narthex. He said it was noteworthy that since the Parish Council attends to the Liturgy, the people in the Narthex also attend to the Liturgy. He will attend the Lenten Services, but since he is not a Parish Council member, he does not have the fiduciary responsibilities when handling money.
 - Honorary Members are not allowed to handle money. Peter Aamodt stated that he will vote against any motion that is raised regarding allowing non-Parish Council Members to handle money. Nick Georgiton suggested that we make a schedule for Lent and make sure there are Parish Council members present
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos commented that we are very appreciative of Frank's service. He agreed with Nick that we have a number of Parish Council members that are going to be able to serve. Ron Nichols made the comment that this attitude should be applicable to every Sunday.
 - Father Bill made the comment that this speaks to the responsibility as a Parish Council member. This means to be on time on Sundays and for the Lenten season. Dr. Pete Kambelos reminded us that the captain needs to be on time and he needs to delegate the duties of the Narthex.

Old Business:

- Picture Directory Update: The Parish is just not interested in this. There are plenty of openings. The 8x10 is free. Contact Ianthe Schulte by phone or email if you need an appointment.
 - Father Bill wondered if this is even worth it at this point. Ianthe thinks we should document other organization's events and put it in the directory. It was suggested that we might put this on hold until we find someone that can shoot on a Sunday.
 - This directory is important because the Church survey showed that we are not an open community. This is great for new people to the Parish.
- Fence Quote: Pete Rodish reported on behalf of George. We will wait and eventually look at getting cameras. If the security patrol is working, then that might be good enough for now. A motion was made to table the fence project. The motion was passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

- Long Range Planning Committee: Lou Assaley and Sam Baumetis started out their report by explaining why we have this committee. The Committee was tasked with looking at the gym renovation project. Whether this space should be a gym or banquet hall has been a debate for 15-20 years.
 - Sam provided a description of each project. The gym renovation and/or conversion to banquet hall is quite lengthy. Plans include:
 - Lowering the ceiling approximately 15 feet;
 - Replacing the wood floor (in any scenario);
 - Expanding the stage (create a curved stage area);
 - Creating a wood dance floor

- Replacing the carpet in the corridor and perimeter area, possibly with carpet tile; and
 - Adding chandeliers (everything will be LED).
- The overall site plan includes a new gym for the youth. We will lose 90 parking spaces, but we will expand into the green space behind the church to make up for those lost parking spaces.
- Lou wants to come to the General Assembly meeting with these plans. He does not think we will have a happy community. He wants to propose a motion to get hard cost estimates, engineering estimates, etc. He challenged the Parish Council to move forward.
- Father Bill reminded the Members that any plans must go through the Metropolis Council. The plans must include how much money it will cost, all of the particulars regarding financing, how much money we have pledged, and how much of that pledged money we have received.
- Father Bill made the comment that exploring the issue of moving the Parish is dangerous because of the feelings of our last move.
- Peter Aamodt made the comment that we should not be complacent with our funds just because we do not have a loan to pay off. We need stretch goals. Peter does not want to endorse an option, but he is worried that with no option we will not have any option chosen by the General Assembly.
- Ron Nichols made the comment that not only does the General Assembly have to be in favor of this, but they need to commit to raising the funds.
- Andy Stefanopoulos' motion for a straw vote was withdrawn.
- This issue will be put on the April Agenda to make our decision whether we endorse option 1, 2, or 3, or whether we do not endorse any option.
- Agape Celebration Committee: No entertainment has been secured yet. Andy Stefanopoulos will check with James Kellaris to see if he can perform.
 - Eugene Nicholas is adding a children's meal. This meal will include chicken finger, macaroni and cheese, and apple sauce.
- Stewardship Committee: We are ahead on a couple of areas. The amount of pledges is still down, but we have had a surge in the past few weeks. We need to keep up the momentum.

Good of the Order:

- John Sakelos: We live in a more global economy. If we decide to make a recommendation for the bigger project, we should consider whether it will be harder for us to generate the startup money
- Maria Kontopos: Great discussion
- Peter Aamodt: The April 20th meeting would be nice for Parish Council to attend. We have speakers as young as 10 years old.
- Nick Georgiton: We need to examine everything from a financial perspective. The talk tonight worries him about having two (2) different churches. We have something here that is nice and it might be worth putting money into. We should downplay the talk about different parishes because it plants the seed of division in people's minds.

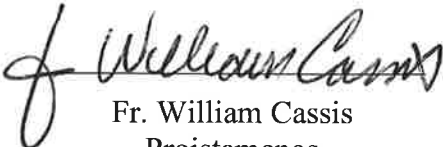
- Father Bill: He is ready to go home
- Father Paul: Although he is young, he does know other Priests who have been through General Assembly meetings that have been worse. The key feature was that the people were not united in the best interests of the church, but they had self-interest. He is impressed that there is no hint of self-interest, but rather we just want what is best for the church
- Ianthe Schulte: If you know anyone who needs their picture taken, tell them to come and get a free 8x10.
- Ron Nichols: Appreciated Nick Georgiton's mental process. What Nick said in a short way is what he said in an excited way. We need a point of view as a council. Even if it is not unanimous in vote, it should be unanimous in support.
- Alex Geromes: Agreed with Nick Georgiton's statement of unity. He will support whatever we come up with even if he does not personally agree with it. He wants future generations to have the same opportunities that his children had.
- Andy Stefanopoulos: The first move was a difficult thing. We wanted to build the gym first because if we built the church first we would never have a gym. There were a lot of fights, but we went ahead as a unit. We need to do the same thing.
- Eugene: No comment
- Dr. Pete Kambelos: This matter is going too fast and we have not had time to think it through. We should do what is right with the children, who are the future of the Parish. We need to put all self-interest aside.
- Nick Sarakatsannis: We should calm down
- Pete Rodish: AHEPA dance is this Saturday. Father Paul brings up a good point that no one in this room has a personal agenda.


ADJOURNMENT


Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 9:43 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,


Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos


Dr. Pete Kambelos
President


Maria Kontopos
Secretary