



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 19, 2014

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis

Parish Council Members present: Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Stacey Loukoumidis (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chrysovergis, Frank Cook, Jim Gelis, David Greene, Maria Kontopos, Matthew Neuendorf, John Sakelos, Nick Sarakatsannis

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas

Absent: Peter Rodish, Father Irenaeus Cox

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Father William Cassis gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting

Call to Order: Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 7:05

President's Remarks: Andy Stefanopoulos brought up the past president's issue with Andy's letter to the community in February's The Voice. Father Bill made a comment that the church office does not edit, correct, add or subtract from the Parish Council President's letter to the community. Regardless of their opinions, perspectives, or thoughts, it is the President's message and stands as is. As a leader of our parish the President has the right to this. Andy made a comment that we did not meet our financial goals as the past president took issue with the comment.

Secretary's Report:

- **Minutes:** David Greene moved to accept the minutes, Justin Bates seconded. The minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting as presented by Stacey Loukoumidis were unanimously approved.
- **Received Correspondence:** Received 1 thank you note for the Panera gift card given to office volunteer Karen Aamodt. Also received a thank you from Metropolis of Detroit for the \$500 donation.

Clergy Remarks:

- Father Bill Cassis:
 - Communicated that Parish Council is doing a great job with ushering. It has been very smooth during communion. Father also mentioned that he would like 2-3 PC members to be at every service during Lent and for the 3 Saturdays of Souls services.

- Churches go through cycles and we currently are in a funeral cycle. We have had 8 deaths in the past 3 weeks. Father wanted to thank PC for the assistance given to the Tom Zaferes family during the visitation and funeral. There will be another funeral on Monday for Carl Gerros. Father Bill and Father Ireneaus have been spending a lot of time at nursing homes.
- The National Clergy Laity Conference is July 6-9 in Philadelphia and we need to send 4 delegates to represent our church. The Parish priest, PC President and two delegates at large are asked to represent the Parish at this conference. We need to identify 2 at large delegates and present this to the General Assembly meeting. Peter Aamodt and John Sakelos volunteered, but nominations need to be deferred to New Business. The parish usually finances parish participants' travel and hotel expenses for these conferences. In the past, some delegates have chosen to reimburse the parish for a portion of their travel expenses incurred to support these conferences.

Treasurer's Report:

- The January 2014 financial statements were presented by Eugene Nicholas for review. All Parish Council members received these statements by email.
- The balance sheet for fixed assets changed for the first time in a long time from \$299,286.38 to \$306,126.38 because fixed assets (kitchen ovens) changed. Capital improvements also fall into this category on the balance sheet. This line item is not completely accurate as a detailed, physical inventory has not been recently performed on the property.
- Andy asked why the endowment fund balance decreased? Explanation - the (stock) market went down in January.
- Miscellaneous expenses were negative because reimbursements for bills that weren't due was received. Operational net income was negative on account of the roof payments.
- The last payment on the roof will be made on March 9th in the amount of \$14,000.
- Jim Gelis asked for clarification regarding restricted funds adjustments. Restricted funds are funds not controlled by the Parish Council. e.g. endowment fund, scholarship fund and other restricted funds.
- 15% of the memorial candle fee is slated to be directed into the emergency repair fund. This transfer hasn't happened since the roof repair as these funds have been used to marginally offset the roof debt incurred by the church.
- Andy requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report Peter Aamodt motioned to accept and Jim Gelis seconded the motion. All in favor none opposed.

Parish Administrator's Report:

- On Saturday, 22 February, noon a firm specializing in brass refurbishment will be on site to evaluate the condition of the brass in the church. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to attend this evaluation.
- All of the computers except for Father Irenaeus's computer have been converted to the Windows 7 operating system. Father Irenaeus's computer is waiting on a disk from Dell.
- There are a few housekeeping issues.

- On Sunday's, after Divine Liturgy, the PC captain should check the Narthex to ensure the Pangari is locked.
- No one can be alone in the counting room if money is in the room. If someone finds themselves in a position where they are alone, they should leave the room and lock the door until another PC member is available. To alleviate this from happening past PC members can help with the tray distribution if staffing is thin on any given Sunday. Only PC members can handle money.
- Don't lock the chair lift key in the Pangari; leave it in the candle room.
- The total cash intake has to be broken down correctly; the final column has to be correct.
- Only unlock 1 of the doors in the Bishop's walk and gym, not both. Alternatively, if both sides are unlocked, lock both sides during closing responsibilities.
- In July Eugene, Chris Jonson and Father Bill will be on vacation. Eugene might need some clerical help in the office during this time.

Old Business:

- New ovens will be in Cincinnati on Friday. They will be delivered on Monday and installed on Tuesday. The old ovens have been moved and are operational. GFI breakers and some new receptacles have been installed to support this work.
- Jim Gelis took the oath of office.
- Andy brought up that a couple people mentioned why the Agape dinner was canceled. Should we revisit this? At the moment, only had a handful of people have commented about this, so the luncheon is still off the calendar.

New Business:

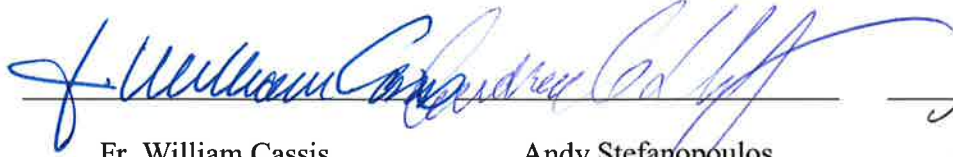
- Stacey moved to nominate Peter Aamodt and John Sakelos to be our slate of delegates at the Clergy Laity conference, to be proposed at the General Assembly. Matthew Neuendorf seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Our parish did not meet the stewardship goal as budgeted last year. The stewardship committee is ahead of last year's pace, both in parishioner amounts pledged. As of this moment the average stewardship pledge is \$600. All stewards need to become pledging stewards to better help with budgeting and planning. 40% of the community is not recorded as stewards. To alleviate this a stewardship calling campaign will be initiated. This requires an all-hands-on-deck approach as of now, only one person outside of Parish Council has volunteered to. It's important to structure the message that is used by the team reaching out to people during this phone campaign. The thrust of the approach was not decided. It was noted that the call should thank people who have formally pledged and encourage people who have not formally pledged. The message is to encourage everyone to become full recorded participants in our Parish stewardship campaign.
- Andy wanted us to start thinking about adding to the building. Additionally, cosmetic work is required in the gym. Think about this for next month's meeting.
- Jim Gelis asked whether a recent feasibility analysis has been executed for the church property. Since none has been recently done, Jim will take the lead in coordinating this effort and will include the expertise of an architect, engineer, and a contractor to make the assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Frank moved to adjourn meeting at 8:37. Maria Kontopos seconded.

Closing prayer: Father Bill offered the closing prayer.

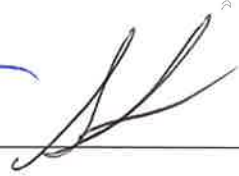
Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos
President



Stacey Loukoumidis
Secretary