



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 November 20, 2014

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. William Cassis, Fr. William Redmon

**Parish Council Members present:** Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Frank Cook, Jim Gelis, David Greene, Maria Moyer, Peter Rodish, John Sakelos, and Nick Sarakatsannis

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

**Absent:** Chris Jonson, Stacey Loukoumidis

### 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 7:02.

**President's Remarks:** Andy Stefanopoulos reminded the Council that the Veteran's memorial service this weekend.

### **Secretary's Report:**

- Minutes: Approval of the minutes was deferred pending copies being resent out for review.
- Received Correspondence: Received the Shepherd's Staff, as well as thank-you letters from the Chichura family, Fr. Irenaeus and Presvytera Alexandra, and from the Special Olympics Hamilton County organization.

### **Clergy Remarks:**

Father Bill Cassis:

- Father Bill thanked the Parish Council for the wonderful weekend and the dinner that they hosted the previous Sunday, and for all the work they did.
- He brought up the local chapter of the Sisterhood of Presvytera. They are almost out of funds and are requesting that each parish consider a free-will offering of some kind.

Father William Redmon:

- Father William thanked everyone for welcoming him to the community.
- He has begun outreach with the youth ministry officers, including Sunday Church School
- He is considering continuing the Monday reading group.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- We still have money in our checking account, and the line of credit has not yet been tapped for expenses.
- The Car Raffle paid out and the winner took cash.
- The Federated Teachers rented the hall, which gained the Parish \$2,000.
- Peter Aamodt moved to accept the report, Nick Sarakatsannis seconded, and the motion passed.

**Parish Administrator's Report:**

- Eugene thanked everyone who helped with the dinner on Sunday.
- He recommended that somebody, under New Business, move to allow the Special Olympics Hamilton County to use our facility annually.
- Eugene reported that he'd spoken with Tom at North Side Bank about lowering our line of credit interest rate, which he did. The new rate of 3.75 (from 4.25) is effective immediately.

**Old Business:**

- Line of Credit: We had around \$2,300 for interest on the line of credit last year, which was high because we had an extraordinary balance on the line of credit for much of the year. John Sakelos said that North Side Bank has been very good to us and very generous, and he wanted to ask the Council to keep that relationship in mind. Matthew Neuendorf mentioned that some parishioners, including a member of the Endowment Committee, were concerned because Morgan Stanley was not willing to negotiate the point of being able to choose at their sole discretion to liquidate assets from the endowment fund without parish input; Father Bill said that it was not appropriate for Endowment Committee members to be speaking about their sessions with individual Council members in such a fashion. Peter Aamodt said that, though there is benefit to doing business with people and groups with whom we have standing relationships, there is also merit in considering the Morgan Stanley offer, if only to establish a sense that we're trying to keep on top of going market rates for the good of the Parish. Peter Rodish reminded the Council that we have a fixed limit on borrowing without explicit permission from the General Assembly, and that the purpose of a line of credit is to assist with operating expenses, while major projects are more properly funded with a long-term loan; John Sakelos agreed, as did Peter Aamodt, who also encouraged the Council to remember the distinction between purposes.
- Peter Aamodt moved to accept the line of credit agreement with Morgan Stanley, Chris Chryssovergis seconded.
- Maria Moyer reaffirmed to the Council that it is very different working with a small institution that we know compared to working with a major financial institution. Chris Chryssovergis reminded the Council that we have a fiscal responsibility to the Parish to seek the best financial terms, and pointed out that the market would have to drop precipitously for Morgan Stanley to try to exercise their clause. Nick Sarakatsannis asked what impact the

agreement would have on the ability of the Endowment Committee to make position moves, which Eugene answered that there is a standing investment policy that would continue to guide such moves. John Sakelos mentioned that the LIBOR rate is a great way to go for a low interest rate, but it does adjust daily while North Side Bank's line of credit adjusts annually.

- The motion failed.

#### **New Business:**

- Presvytera Fund: Jim Gelis moved to donate \$500 to the Sisterhood of Presvytera, Peter Aamodt seconded.
- Peter Rodish asked what they do with the funds; Father Bill said they fund programming as well as charity work; Father William said they also come to the seminary and brief future Presvytera. Nick Sarakatsannis asked to amend the motion to \$1000, and the amendment was accepted.
- The motion passed as amended.
- Special Olympics: Maria Moyer moved to allow the Special Olympics Hamilton County to use our facility annually, Peter Rodish seconded, the motion passed.

#### **Committees**

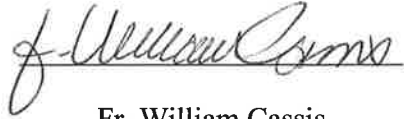
- Stewardship: Stewardship appears to be surging, though it's early to tell for sure. We're currently seeing a \$51,000 increase relative to where we were at this point last year, which when extrapolated to the end of the year would nearly meet historical records.
- We have 21 callers pushing stewardship card turn-ins for next year, but the calling campaign might be pushing December stewardship forward into November. Peter Aamodt will know for sure one way or another in the December report.
- Andy Stefanopoulos asked Eugene if there were any extraordinary donations, and Eugene said that we had been seeing an up-tick in pledge cards turned in, and that many of the returned pledge cards have included 2014 Stewardship checks. He has also received 6 or 7 cards from people who have never before pledged.
- Building Committee: Jim Gelis presented a hall restoration study to the General Assembly, and he had since received positive feedback from some parishioners. He wanted to start input meetings and focus groups, beginning with clergy input.
- With the HVAC units, Jim and Eugene met with Feldkamp and determined that the units were in bad shape right now. They are all gas fired. Currently the duct work in the low part of the gym isn't connected, so they plan to increase the size of the unit for that section and reconnect the duct work, which should make the entire gym as well as the Bishops' Walk far more efficient. Also, the unit serving the office space died but has been temporarily jerry rigged.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Frank Cook moved to adjourn, Peter Rodish seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

**Closing prayer:** Father William offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos  
President



Stacey Loukoumidis  
Secretary