



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 28, 2015

### ATTENDANCE

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

**Members present:** Jim Gelis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chrysosvergis, Stacey Loukoumidis, Christine Masella, Jessica Mavridoglou, Michael Mavridoglou, Peter Rodish, and Nick Sarakatsannis.

**Members absent:** David Greene and Nektarios Papasavvas.

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas and Chris Jonson.

### PRE-MEETING

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

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Jim Gelis called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

#### **President's remarks:**

- Jim decided to change the order a little so that the car raffle committee could present first.

#### **Car Raffle Committee report:**

- Lou Parsenios gave the report.
- The only dealership that the committee had received a response from was Jake Sweeny BMW. They suggested a lease instead of a purchase, and also asked to be involved in the raffle, including marketing and perhaps sponsoring a table's worth of tickets.
- The committee recommended that the council approve a pre-paid lease.
- Karen Aamodt moved that this year the raffle consist of a pre-paid three-year lease for a 500-series BMW from Jake Sweeney, with 15 thousand miles per year, or a cash payout not to exceed the lease price of \$26,000, and fixing the number of tickets at 800. Justin seconded. The motion passed.

#### **President's remarks (continued):**

- The agenda is still full, including filling the Vice President slot, discussing the architect's proposal, and evaluating the Metropolitan's suggestion.

#### **Secretary's report:**

- Karen Aamodt said that our only received correspondence was the Shepherds Staff publication.

- The April minutes were distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Christine moved to approve the minutes as received, Michael seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Bill:
  - Father received registration packets for the metropolitan clergy-laity congress, scheduled for September 30 or October 1 through October 3, in Troy, Michigan.
  - The parish needs to send 2 delegates plus clergy. We have to submit everything by August, so we can postpone choosing delegates until our June meeting.
  - The hotel is \$109 per night.
  - At the clergy-laity conference we will be honoring 2 parish volunteers. Father Suggested Mr. Kapourales, but we need to choose a second, preferably a woman.
  - The Archdiocesan clergy-laity may be in Nashville again in 2016.
  - As for the \$10,000 contribution, we have until December of next year. Father recommended we consider doing \$5,000 per year, drawn from Panegyri proceeds.
  - Fr. Joseph has been regularized and has canonical standing now with the Archdiocese. Metropolitan Nicholas has proposed that Fr. Joseph serve the Middletown parish on Sundays and weekends more broadly, and that our parish hire him part-time as an assistant. We have budgeted for a lay assistant, but have failed to find any candidates. The next group isn't due to graduate until May of next year.
  - After some discussion, Father Bill said that he would tell the metropolitan that we are very interested, but that we have questions that we'd like to have answered and are going to have our human resources committee meet on this, with a vote for the June council meeting.
- Fr. William Redmon:
  - New GOYA officers were elected. HOPE/JOY had a slow start but has been building momentum and has been getting from 8 to 10 attendees lately.
  - Christine has been helping to plan a Chuck-E-Cheese's outing.
  - The GOYA picnic was a success.
  - Fr. William met with the OCF at Miami University in April during their finals week. They plan to hold a festival of lights program at the university.
  - VBS has their three mandatory instructors and one alternate, but Fr. William hopes to get another few alternates signed on.

#### **Treasurer's report:**

- Peter Rodish reported that the line of credit is up to \$137,000. This past April was the first time in a long time that we did not cover our expenses. Stewardship was down compared to March, though trays and candles were both up.
- Our miscellaneous expenses are positive right now because we've been reimbursed for things that we haven't yet had to pay for.
- Pledged stewardship commitments are up, but received stewardship is down. Pledged households are up.
- Jessica moved to accept the report, Nick seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Parish Administrator's report:**

- Eugene thanked everyone for their support during his health ordeal. Everything went as hoped. This was the first week that Eugene has worked full-time for Tuesday and Thursday. Rehab prevents him from working full-time on other days.
- As for the festival, Eugene said he was ready to go. The first meeting will be next Sunday. Jim Betas and Paul Misali will fill the leadership void left by Frank. Also, a support team including Nick L., Nektarios, George Kalemanis, and Peter Rodish have volunteered to take personal vacation time. Eugene and Chris Chryssovergis will co-chair.
- Restaurant depot pricing has gone down recently.
- Program guide ads are selling pretty well.
- Eugene will be borrowing \$10,000 more from the line of credit for the first week of the next month. Hopefully that will be the last borrowing prior to the festival. Several sponsors have yet to pay up.

**Old Business:**

- St. Nicholas contribution: Michael moved to divide the \$10,000 contribution into two payments of \$5,000 each, in 2015 and 2016 respectively, payments to be drawn from the proceeds of the Panegyri. Nick seconded. The motion passed.
- Vice Presidential vacancy: Peter nominated Nick as vice president, Stacey seconded. There were no further nominations. The council elected Nick as vice president.

**New Business:**

- Architect's proposal: Nick moved to proceed with retaining Alex Christoforidis and his firm for architectural services, for a sum not to exceed \$15,000. Christine seconded, and the motion passed.
- Clergy-Laity delegates: Deferred to the next meeting.
- Volunteers to honor at the clergy-laity conference: Deferred to the next meeting.
- Fr. Joseph: Referred to the HR Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Peter Rodish moved to adjourn at 8:31 PM.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. William Redmon offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,

  
Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos

  
Jim Gelis  
Vice President

  
Matthew Neuendorf  
Assistant Secretary