



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 17, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll.

Members present: Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Buzzy Gaz, David Greene, Stacey Loukoumidis, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou

Members absent: George Haralamos, Bill Kanelopoulos, Nektarios Papasavvas

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

MEETING

Call to order: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Fr. Mark led the council in the Service of Prayer for the Opening of the Parish Council

President's remarks:

- We had a nice break.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with Fr. William's luncheon, especially Karen, Philotochos, and the rest of the Parish Council.
- We received from Metropolitan Nicholas our official letter of assignment for Mr. Nicolaos Tzetzis, effective August 15, 2017, as assistant (clergy upon ordination) to the Proistamenos.
- Tonight we have to choose delegates for Clergy-Laity. Nick probably will not be able to attend due to upcoming surgery.

Secretary's report:

- Dimitri moved to accept the minutes as presented, Buzzy seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included the letter of assignment and the Shepherd's Staff.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - It is the first meeting after Panegyri. Father wishes to thank everyone for their efforts during the festival. Despite the rain, our willingness to open early on Saturday allowed us to make up for it.

- He also wishes to thank the Parish Council and everyone involved in the farewell feast for Fr. William. He is always impressed by the outpouring of love from our parish.
- Nick Tzetzis and his wife Ivey will arrive in Cincinnati tomorrow evening and will move into their apartment on Saturday. We have parish volunteers to assist them. They will be present on Sunday. He is from Syracuse, NY, and his wife is from New Hampshire. He is a 2013 graduate of the seminary and has been working in internet ministries and as a pastoral assistant. They are very much looking forward to joining us and we are very much looking forward to them arriving. The ordination date has yet to be determined.
- We have our schedule for the upcoming liturgical year.
- Regarding ushering, Fr. Mark will be issuing guidelines which will be included in the Sunday Church School handbook. Fr. Mark is considering changing the timing of the trays, perhaps during petitions following the Great Entrance. The first day of SCS (September 10) will be the first day for the new tray time.
- SCS teacher orientation is on August 26. There is a new handbook including the schedule of classes and special Sundays as well as resources for families, such as prayers to do together at home.
- Presvytera Ginny sent out an email for an upcoming OCF meet-and-greet. YAL has a get-together on Saturday. Fr. Mark will be holding a blessing of the backpacks on August 27.

Treasurer's report:

- North Side balance is up significantly compared to this time last year. We are around \$180,000 as of today.
- The capital improvement fund is very low. Today it is at the minimum balance of \$1,000, and is far below where it needs to be to meet our monthly payments. Eugene had to borrow \$3,008 from the general fund to cover this month.
- Stewardship remains lower YTD (down \$13,000 compared to this time in 2016), but we did see an up-tic in June (around \$7,000) and July (around \$8,000), which includes increases over those same months last year, closing the gap significantly.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Financial
 - Loan payment had to be drawn from the General Fund, which is not budgeted.
- Building
 - Cincinnati Floor will begin screening and refinishing for our new large hall floor, which will take a few days plus about a week of curing. After the luncheon this Sunday we need volunteers to help move everything out. Next Sunday coffee hour will be in the small hall. The luncheon will include Greek chicken, and anyone who can help would be very appreciated.

- Panegyri
 - Our final gross is \$416,206, our estimated expenses at \$178,593, and Eugene is waiting on a single sponsorship check and has a few outstanding expenses. He will be purchasing new dance costumes for grades 4-5.
 - The estimated net profit is \$237,600, a 57% margin which exceeds our budget of \$230,000. Considering the rain on Friday, it looks to have been a very good year.

Old Business:

- Lighting
 - The committee got some competitive bids but they have to meet to compare notes.

New Business:

- Philanthropy Event
 - There is an opportunity for the Parish Council, if we wish, on Tuesday, November 7, for a group to volunteer to feed 150 men for the City Gospel Mission.
 - We could prepare a meal on Sunday the 5th of November.
- Clergy-Laity
 - The Metropolitan Clergy-Laity Conference is September 28-30, Thursday to Saturday, in Buffalo, NY. The presiding priest and council president, as well as a delegate in good standing or official designee, need to attend. We must submit our information by September 1, so we need to choose our delegates by next week.
 - We will be supporting the commemorative portfolio with a half page entry. We need to select one male and one female parishioner to honor at the conference. Dimitri moved to nominate Helen Cimarosti and Gus Constantine Siegel, Chris seconded, the motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- We are still behind our record year, but the gap isn't growing. We remain about \$20,000 low YTD over 2016.
- Eugene's quarterly reminders do seem to be having an impact. The committee met, and we will be meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month going forward.
- Archdiocesan materials are not yet posted.
- We have set a schedule for groups to contribute letters to the Voice. We hope that once we get our new campaign started it will reinvigorate giving.
- Our next Name Tag Sunday will be September 10.

Committee Reports:

- Events
 - The annual picnic is coming up, at Stricker's Grove, on September 3. Karen has a sign-up for helping out, broken into three shifts.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Dimitri moved to adjourn, Nick seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark offered the closing prayer at 8:14 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary