



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes January 19, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll, Fr. William Redmon.

Members present: Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, David Greene, George Haralamos, Bill Kanelopoulos, Stacey Loukoumidis, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou, Nektarios Papasavvas.

Members absent: Buzzy Gaz.

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

MEETING

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

George Haralamos took the oath of office of the Parish Council.

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

President's remarks:

- Nick welcomed all the new members of the council.
- He asked that we all try to be on time on Sundays and always to wear our name badges.

Secretary's report:

- David moved to accept the minutes from the meeting to elect Parish Council officers as taken by Fr. William, George seconded, the minutes were approved.
- Chris moved to accept the December meeting minutes as corrected and distributed via email prior to the meeting, Dimitri seconded, the minutes were approved.
- Received correspondence consisted of a thank-you note from Fr. Mark and Presvytera Ginny for their warm welcome by our community.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - He looks forward to working with us for the glory of God.

- He has prepared a liturgical calendar for the rest of the liturgical year (through August). Please be mindful of the master calendar and watch for any changes that may come in the future.
- Fr. Mark needs his housing allowance to be recorded in the minutes per IRS rules.
- Fr. William:
 - HOPE/JOY had to cancel the January meeting due to weather. Their next meeting will be February 5.
 - GOYA successfully met.
 - The Metropolis Youth Retreat had no Cincinnati attendees and overall attendance was significantly reduced and mostly younger.
 - Summer camp has moved to Lichfield, KY, at Camp Loucon, which is both closer and more accommodating. It will be July 23-29 but final pricing is not yet settled.

Treasurer's report:

- The year-end balance is \$50,000 higher than it was at this time last year. The current balance of our North Side Checking is still at \$50,000 and our line of credit is currently at \$0
- Our mortgage loan monthly payment is going to be around \$4,000. The Capital Improvement Fund is currently at \$21,942.
- Income was up around \$80,000 last year compared to the year before.
- The total expense of the renovation was \$640,671.
- Office and church expenses were lower than the prior year thanks to the efforts of Eugene.

Parish Administrator's report:

- After taking ladders up to the sanctuary roof it has been confirmed that the area was completely dry with no signs of any further leaking despite the recent heavy rainfall.
- Pastrimas Painting offered to help paint the Narthex exit walls down toward the gym.
- We have \$5,000 outstanding to pay to our contractors for work on the renovation that will be paid after confirming the completion of the punch list. We will likely be paying on some other items based on changes made in-progress but they will fall within the scope of our budgeted amount for the project.

Old Business:

- Security
 - Nick called several companies regarding having a consultant come in to evaluate our situation. He also found the old security quote from years ago, which was priced around \$17,000. He would like, at a minimum, to be able to know when the building is open.
 - Nor-Com can provide an open security system rather than a proprietary one. He will check with them on the price of a walk-through evaluation and we will put a notice in the bulletin asking for anyone with security or law enforcement experience to assist us.

New Business:

- Fr. Mark's housing allowance.
 - Stacey moved to set aside \$35,000 for Fr. Mark's 2017 housing allowance. Chris seconded. The motion passed.
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony.
 - Will be February 5.
 - The plan is to have everyone gather in the bishop's walk while the doors are blocked with ribbon. The Parish Council president will say something, Jim Gelis will say something, Fr. Mark will lead a prayer of blessing, somebody (likely parish youth) will cut the ribbon, and we will have an ice cream social afterward.

Stewardship Report:

- We had a record year for Stewardship at \$468,707. While this is still far from what we need to be fully funded by stewardship alone it is trending in the right direction.
- Name Tag Day seems to continue to be successful and we would like to continue to have them.
- Statements went out last quarter. It might be worth accelerating the frequency of email statement distribution, perhaps to every 2 months or even monthly. Quarterly mailed statements should continue.
- We had people manning tables after service during coffee hour who could answer questions and distribute materials. It might be nice to have a list of past donors that could be marked when people have received their material for the next year or have submitted their commitment cards.
- The committee will need to schedule another calling campaign. Last year was successful, with Stacey being our best caller.
- If we can promote the ministries that our church offers and expand them, it may get more people more engaged with the work of our parish and thus drive stewardship both in terms of donations and in volunteering and participation by parishioners.
- We are hoping to pursue the hosting of seminars and presentations on things like finances, estate planning, and the like.
- It might be helpful for non-Council members of the Stewardship Committee to wear name tags.
- Stewardship Sunday was a success and we hope that it is the start of a new tradition in our parish.
- We need to contact those who indicated on their pledge cards that they were willing to serve on committees.
- We hope to kick off our 2018 campaign a little earlier this year than last, perhaps around October.

Committee Reports:

- Special Events Committee
 - It was fun having new people help with the reception last month.


- Strategic Planning Committee
 - The first meeting was last night. 9 people attended, including members of the Long Range Planning Committee and several non-Parish Council members.
 - The next meeting should be in 2-3 weeks.
 - The committee plans to delay its presentation to the General Assembly from spring to fall to make sure that they have a quality plan for the Parish instead of rushing into something unfinished.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Stacey moved to adjourn at 8:44 PM.

Closing prayer: Fr. William offered the closing prayer.


Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary