



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 19, 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, Bill Kanelopoulos, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou, Nektarios Papasavvas.

Members absent: George Haralamos, Stacey Loukoumidis.

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Nick Tzetzis.

MEETING

Call to order: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

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

President's remarks:

- Thank you for attending the General Assembly. Changing the order to have the meal before the start of the meeting worked well.

Secretary's report:

- Nektarios moved to accept the minutes as posted, Buzzy seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included the Shepherd's Staff and a thank-you card from Fr. William and Presvytera Elizabeth.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - The theme of the Clergy-Laity was whether our Orthodox faith makes a difference. The presentations were very informative and some will be made available online. We are exploring the potential of bringing one or more of the speakers to present something here. Gus was able to attend and we have Helen's recognition materials to present to her.

- Fr. Mark has been elected to serve on the Metropolis Council.
- At the Fall General Assembly, we received 7 nominees for 7 open Parish Council seats, but 3 later stepped down from their nominations, leaving only 4. The new council will need to appoint 3 people to fill those vacancies after they are seated. Potential candidates must be parishioners in good standing, being fully in communion and having completed both 2016 and 2017 stewardship commitments. Appointments would be discussed beginning with the first full Parish Council meeting.
- We still have no confirmed dates for Mr. Nick's ordination, though hopefully with Clergy-Laity being completed and affairs with Chicago coming to a conclusion we may see something happen yet this year.
- Mr. Nick
 - Thanks to Fr. Mark and all of the Parish Council for their generosity and hard work with bringing him onboard. It was rapid and last minute and both he and Ivey very much appreciate all of the support that they have received.
 - It has been very nice getting to know the parish youth ministries. HOPE/JOY is being slightly restructured to have about half an hour of structured play time followed by prayer in church, concluding with a craft and lesson in the hall. GOYA has been great to get to know. Mr. Nick's first opportunity was the picnic, but the recent meeting was his best chance so far. The meeting took around 2 hours. Mr. Nick asked each member to tell him who they really were and was impressed by their responses and how engaged they are in matters of faith. After music and introductions, there was a meal and a meeting. The Young Adult group will be doing an event this Saturday evening. Mr. Nick is starting to learn names and faces and as relationships build so too will programs and members, both in numbers and in spirit.
 - The digital ministry strategy is being updated in consultation with Fr. Mark. We have acquired the domain name htsnchurch.org for around \$30, which gives us far more control and access with online functions and resources. For instance, we can set up emails with that domain name. The Archdiocese is still hosting the site and most of the content remains the same. Mass communication currently relies mostly on a listserv. Mr. Nick has added a newsletter service called MailChimp for youth programming. GOYA was already using GroupMe but is now adding a text messaging function to the service. For social media, we have verified with Facebook that we are the church that is present at the known landmark and have assumed full control over the Facebook page. We have also tightened control over the various Facebook groups such as the Sunday Church School and GOYA pages. We are working on an Instagram account for the parish. Media storage now includes both a SmugMug account for digital photos and a Vimeo account for video.

Treasurer's report:

- The North Side checking balance ended the month at \$154,495, but currently stands at approximately \$124,000 after subsequent payroll and other outlays. This is around \$62,000 more than at this time last year.
- The capital improvement funding remains slow, but we did manage to pay last month and reimburse the general fund for the moneys we had to draw to cover the payment some months prior. We still have a balance of around \$2,000.
- Stewardship was only \$21,000 for September, down around \$6,000 from last month, but that is similar to what happened last year with those two months.

Parish Administrator's report:

- IOCC
 - Our total donation for Hurricane Relief including the donations sent by our organizations was \$5,400.
- Building
 - The northern fence line will be cleaned this Sunday after Divine Liturgy is over. Eugene found somebody who would do it for a reasonable rate. We also have a quote for power washing the church and sealing it. The cost would be \$23,000, but with an offered donation of \$5,000 to the church, the net cost would be \$18,000. We have only done a partial wash and seal due to the cost but our building definitely needs it.

New Business:

- IOCC donation
 - Chris moved to match the \$5,400 parish contribution to the IOCC for hurricane relief, Dimitri seconded, the motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- We are not doing as well as last year still, but then last year was our best ever. We remain about \$17,000 behind this time last year. October so far has surpassed last year's October.
- Quarterly reports went out last week.
- Stewardship Sunday will be set on November 19, when we will hold parish elections. It is the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. We will request that people bring their pledge cards to church that day and deliver them at the conclusion of the service to a table prepared with an icon and all previously received cards. We will offer a collective prayer. After the service will be the International Luncheon.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities
 - Duke Energy has run out of rebate money so that is no longer available to us until the turn of the year. The big picture is that buying the fixtures makes us responsible for any maintenance and repairs, while getting a contractor to do the job and solicit bids means that we bring any problems to them.
 - Strategic Planning
 - Our next step is to hold a general meeting parish-wide on November 9. It will start around 6:30, dinner style with a discussion and presentation. We will invite parish organization leaders with the idea being to communicate our strategy to those leaders so that they can present it to their respective memberships.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Buzzy moved to adjourn, Dimitri seconded. The motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:13 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary