



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

## HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 15, 2012

#### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Paul Truebenbach.

**Members present:** Chris Chryssovergis (Presiding), Peter Aamodt (Recording), Frank Cook, Brad Fielden, Nick Georgiton, Dr. Anastasios Ioannides, George Kalemanis, Dr. Pete Kambelos, Ron Nichols, John Sakelos, Ianthe Schulte, Andy Stefanopoulos.

**Member absent:** Eleni Haralamos.

**Honorary Member:** Sophie Guethlein.

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

**Guest:** Sheila Rutz.

#### PRE-MEETING

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

**Presentation:** Sheila Rutz, from Spring Grove Cemetery, provided information on burial pre-planning opportunities. A section is presently being held, with special pricing available to members of the Parish community, until February 1st. She will return on Sunday [November 18] to provide an information session to interested parishioners. Fr. Paul will ask Fr. Bill to make an announcement at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy.

#### MEETING

**Call to order:** Chris Chryssovergis called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**President's remarks:** Once the Council is elected, the goal of its members is to serve the Parish community. Please do what is necessary. Some tasks are difficult and cause weariness. Therefore, solicit help from others in the Parish as needed to carry the ball. It is incumbent on the Council as leaders collectively to effect the changes sought.

**Secretary's report:**

- Minutes: the minutes of the October 18, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- There was no received correspondence or announcements.

**Clergy remarks:** Fr. Paul reported that it has been busy lately due to security issues. Fr. Bill is aware of the security system recommendations that will be discussed and is anxious to move forward. Having spoken to the officer most recently, Fr. Paul was told that there are multiple perpetrators. It is important that the Council move forward to approve a security option.

**Treasurer's report:** The October 2012 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- There has been a phenomenal response to the Thanksgiving appeal. 120 meals are needed, of which 90 have been received so far. There is hope that the rest of the needed meals will be provided in time. Tasos Ioannides asked about the Food Pantry concerns recently mentioned – the Parish has been helping people for years. The Food Pantry evolved from the sense that the Parish could do still more. George Kalemanis asked how valid were concerns about a bad element - 99% of the people helped are very grateful for the assistance; only 1% are less appreciative. Only one person has been kicked out of the pantry due to belligerence. The response to Fr. Bill's recent homily about the value of the Food Pantry ministry has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Approximately \$49,000 in net Panegyri income remains. This is very comparable to last year, when \$50,000 remained at this this same point. Therefore, there are sufficient funds to address security needs.

**New Business:**

- Narthex recommendations: Ron Nichols updated the Council regarding the progress made by a committee formed at Chris Chryssovergis' request, comprising three Council and four non-Council members. This committee is making several observations/recommendations for the Council's consideration at a future meeting:
  - Move all Pangari transactions out of the Narthex to where the giving tree is.
  - The Narthex is a sanctified area, requiring commensurate decorum and appropriate behavior
  - The structural aspects of the Narthex currently amplify noises, which could be reduced.
  - There is a need for a quiet area for toddlers separate from the infant room.
  - The culture of using the Narthex as a visiting/waiting area, rather than a worship space, needs to be changed.

Expense items related to the Committee's recommendations will come before the Council for approval. There may be additional recommendations which currently await clergy approval.

**Old Business:**

- Parish Hall renovation: Brad Fielden has been exploring three scenarios/scopes of work:
  - A conversion of the Parish Hall to a banquet hall, to the exclusion of any gymnasium facility.
  - An upgrade of the existing gym, while dressing it for better ambience and appearance.
  - A specific renovation of the existing bathroom, which could be either part of the other possible projects or a separate project on its own. If the latter, the renovation would be more extensive.

Brad distributed cost estimates that he had prepared, believing that most of his estimates were sound. Nick Georgiton and Peter Aamodt will review the cost estimates and finish them as needed.

- Parish security system: Brad Fielden reported on the quotes he had received. The cost of a system could be as high as \$15,000. An alternative to a system would be stepped-up patrols by Springfield Police or contracting with a private security firm – the former option costing \$30 per hour, the latter \$20-\$25 per hour. Eugene Nicholas estimates the number of events requiring security to be approximately 190 involving Parish organizations, plus another 60 from outside the Parish. (These figures exclude Sunday Divine Liturgies.) The private security firm quoted requires a four-hour minimum, but there is no minimum required by Springfield Police. Distinguishing short-term needs from long-term solutions, Pete Kambelos moved to hire Springfield Police on an interim, per-hour basis beginning with the next scheduled event at the \$30 rate. George Kalemanis amended the motion to specify that the hire would be at the direction of Eugene or Chris Jonson. The amended motion passed unanimously. Discussion was also had as to the merits of building a fence, the value of cameras and foot patrols to monitor parking lot incursions. George, Pete and John Sakelos will discuss and forward long-term recommendations to the Council.

**Committee reports:**

- Stewardship: Peter Aamodt outlined the parameters being considered for an upcoming telephone campaign. Tasos Ioannides asked about the range of annual stewardship pledge amounts, expressing particular concern that large donations could act as earmarks or serve as a means to direct benefitting business; the concern is about transparency, accountability and the need for openness. Chris Chryssovergis clarified by assuring that no earmarking of stewardship dollars was permitted. While donations for specific purposes are permitted, such funds are restricted, i.e., not counted toward operating fund stewardship.

**Other:**


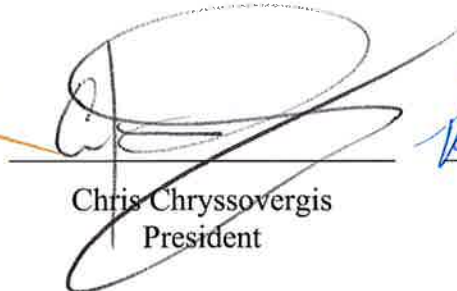

- Members offered good-of-the-Parish comments and observations:
  - John Sakelos reminded members that the St. Nicholas Day dance is coming up. Reservations are coming in slowly. A higher level of commitment is needed.
  - Pete Kambelos thanks those who supported him during his political campaign.
  - Ron Nichols cautioned that the Council should be careful to listen to views regardless of the level of acceptance. Donors should be able to give money anonymously.
  - Peter Aamodt suggested the use of the Audit Committee to alleviate concerns about the direction of pledges.
  - Frank Cook offered an “Amen.”
  - In spite of concerns about the recent election, Andy Stefanopoulos feels good about this House of God.
  - Fr. Paul gives thanks to God for all things.
  - Nick Georgiton thanked Pete Kambelos for running. He believes that it would be helpful to poll other businesses about security measures and the effectiveness of cameras.
  - Tasos Ioannides reiterated his concern about donor openness. There is room in Christianity for anonymity, but the Council should have knowledge in certain circumstances.
  - George Kalemanis appreciated the good dinner. He reminds all that professional security gear is expensive. Both serious equipment and a plan are required. He supports donor transparency.
  - Eugene Nicholas believes that most people do not want to be identified when it comes to giving.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** the motion to adjourn was made at 9:14 pm.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,

		
Fr. Paul Truebenbach Assistant Priest	Chris Chryssovergis President	Peter Aamodt Secretary