



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7000 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 • Tel.: (513) 591-0030 • Fax: (513) 591-0043
Web: www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org • Email: gopriest@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 16, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach.

Members present: Dr. Pete Kambelos (Presiding), Maria Kontopos (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Nick Georgiton, Alex Geromes, Eleni Haralamos, George Kalemanis, Ron Nichols, Nick Sarakatsannis, Andy Stefanopoulos

Member absent: Pete Rodish, John Sakelos, Ianthe Schulte

Parish Staff: Chris Johnson, Eugene Nicholas.

Honorary Members: Frank Cook

PRE-MEETING

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

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

President's remarks: Dr. Pete Kambelos will save most of his remarks for discussion under old business under the General Assembly update. Thank you to George Kalemanis and Nick Sarakatsannis for the meal. It was fantastic.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- A letter was received from the Annunciation church in Memphis for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival requesting donations for the National finals.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - Father Bill reminded the Parish Council that the Lay Assistant candidate will be visiting on May 31, June 1 and June 2.
- Fr. Paul:
 - The GOYA car wash is this Sunday after the Sunday School awards are finished. It is donation only.
 - The GOYA BBQ is coming up at the end of the year with elections.

- The St. Nicholas summer camp registration is open so please encourage GOYA aged children to attend. The numbers are low, so we need people to attend. It is during the first full week in June.
- Thank you to everyone who has visited the bookstore. We have had a couple good months. This month looks like it will be good also.
- Come to reading group!

Treasurer's report:

- The April 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Panegyri is only 42 days away. We may have an Admissions chairperson. Frank Cook is working on new chair people for the souvlaki booth. Costs have been relatively close to last year. The Volunteer Spot will be used to register volunteers online.
- Next Wednesday is the calendar meeting for next year. Eugene recommends that the Parish Council remove the St. Nicholas Day Dinner/Dance from this year's calendar. This would be based on last year's lack of interest by the Parish. Eugene also recommends looking at discounting the Agape Luncheon. Attendance has steadily declined over the last 4 years. This year we had 34 families with a total of 172 people.
- Our Parishioners were extremely generous during this year's Holy Week. We had the best year in the past 5 years. We had 5 countries watching Holy Week services on our live broadcast. Approximately 800 views occurred from Palm Sunday through Pascha.
- We distributed eggs and cheese to just over 50 families this week. Eugene estimates that we distributed more than \$1,200 worth of food this week.

New Business:

- Facility Maintenance Concerns:
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos asked each of the Parish Council Members to take notes regarding the church and what we see in terms of maintenance needs in the physical structure.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos asked that Nick Sarakatsannis and Chris Johnson get together to make a plan to have these items corrected within a certain time period. He would like to see these things completed once and for all. He wants it to be a formal process.
 - The Parish Council Members were asked to compile a list and give it to Nick Sarakatsannis. We are obligated to maintain this facility.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos asked if the wall within the church has been fixed? Chris Johnson informed the Parish Council that it has been like that for many years and the contractors will not tackle it because of what is involved. Eugene Nicholas personally thinks we need to take care of it because we will eventually have to fix it.
 - Peter Aamodt says that he has gotten the impression that we have a deferred maintenance list that we already have items that have estimates on how much things will cost to fix. He wanted to know if we are starting from scratch or if we are adding on to a prior committee's work?
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos states that he is not adding on to another committee's work because he is unfamiliar with what is on those lists. He is suggesting

that we look around and report what is obvious to fix. He suggests that down the road it would be wise to create such a list and look at what the maintenance needs are.

- Eugene Nicholas states that he has the maintenance list.
- Peter Aamodt requests that by the end of the summer we have an updated list and a Parish Council review of what is on the list.

- Car Raffle:

- Andy Stefanopoulos informs the Parish Council that the car is a 2013 Cadillac. He informs the Parish Council that by giving a 2013 model instead of a 2014, the cost will be less if the winner takes the car.
- Last year we sold 778 tickets. We made \$36,000. If we bump it up, we can actually make over \$50,000. Andy would like to distribute tickets to all Parish Council members to sell like we did last year.
- We could always use more volunteers to help sell tickets.
- The car is displayed the entire Panegyri weekend. Both cars will be sitting out on the front lawn starting August 1.
- Peter Aamodt comments that we had a big turnout for the dinner last year and we had some structural problems. Andy Stefanopoulos comments that 2 years ago the kitchen worked smoothly. The only problem was that we did not have enough beer and someone opened the back door and let others inside that did not pay for a ticket. We also ran out of some side items.
- Chris Johnson comments that he will post someone at the back door to make sure people do not come inside.
- The day of the event is September 22, 2013.

- St. John Chrysostom Oratorical the Festival:

- Peter Aamodt makes a motion that the Parish Council makes a contribution of \$500 to the Annunciation Church in Memphis.
- Ron Nichols seconds
- The motion passes unanimously

Old Business:

- Agape Luncheon Attendance:

- Dr. Pete Kambelos heard a comment from a Montgomery Inn worker saying “gee, you guys are seeing fewer and fewer people each year.” He is not coming forth with a recommendation on what to do with the luncheon, but Eugene Nicholas made a good point that we need to decide what to do with the Agape luncheon in the future. Dr. Pete Kambelos certainly enjoys it. Fiscally speaking, it is probably not the wisest decision if it loses money, but this is an item that merits continuance because it brings us together in good fellowship after the Agape service.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos comments that there are many people in this community that go home after service and are celebrating with their friends and family. It is a nice tradition, but it is hard to compete with other family traditions.
 - George Kalemanis comments that for some reason people are not coming out as much.
 - Peter Aamodt echoes Dr. Pete Kambelos’ comments. We need to do something as a community; whether it is the Agape Luncheon or the meal

- after the Resurrection service. \$25 is not expensive, but maybe some food change would bring people back in.
- Eleni Haralamos asks how long did the midnight mayerista continue?
 - Chris Johnson responds that the YAL sponsored it and it was free. There would be about 200+ people come back to eat after the service. People would bring different appetizers.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos thinks this is an excellent idea and it should bring a bigger crowd. Since the calendar meeting is this Wednesday, the Parish Council should make a decision.
 - Eugene Nicholas suggests that the Parish Council just put it on the calendar as “Pascha event” and we decide later what we make it.
 - Peter Aamodt moves that the Parish Council reserves a date on the calendar for the “Pascha event”. George Kalemanis seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.
 - St. Nicholas Day Dinner Dance:
 - The attendance was zero last year. We had to cancel it. The year before was less than 200 people.
 - Ron Nichols comments that sometimes less is more. It seems like there are multiple events that are similar. Sometimes fewer events will be more favorable to everyone.
 - Peter Aamodt states that St. Nicholas is our feast. We need to do something. It may not be the dinner/dance, but we should do something.
 - Ron Nichols states that there are some activities that are primarily fundraiser and some that are special to the church. Some things might be more appropriate to be for the church instead of fundraiser.
 - Nick Georgiton comments that it has been poorly attended and it is poorly organized. If we still want to do something, maybe we could do something after church.
 - Eugene Nicholas suggests that the Parish Council do something on a Sunday and offer a free meal after service.
 - Fr. Bill reminds the Parish Council that the Philoptochos does a nice job with the Vespers.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that someone make a motion to not hold the dinner/dance this year. Andy Stefanopoulos makes a motion that we have a Sunday dinner after church on December 8 honoring St. Nicholas and cancel the dance. George Kalemanis seconds the motion. The motion is passed unanimously.
 - Toddler Room Update:
 - Ron Nichols discussed the toddler room. The room needs to get the HVAC replaced. Originally, we thought the ventilation would be an issue, but it is not. This will reduce the cost. We have \$3000-\$5000 to spend. Chris Johnson assured Ron that he will contact the contractors by next week to look at the space. By next summer the room should hopefully be done.
 - Noise Abatement/Narthex Stained Glass Door Matters:
 - Ron Nichols asks to withdraw 2 of the proposals
 - Fire proof glass doors: After a discussion with Sam Boulmetis, Sam convinced Ron that those doors would be \$10,000 a piece. The doors are

already open on Sunday, so there is no reason to think the doors would not be open in case of a fire.

- Treatment on the ceiling: The issue is that periodically we would have to paint the ceiling because of the smoke stain. That nullifies the purpose of the sound proofing treatment because when we paint, the noise reduction treatment is gone. At best, we would have to paint every 2 years.
- Panegyri Update:
 - Frank Cook stated that the festival will be the same festival as it was last year, but better.
- General Assembly Meeting Update:
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos starts the discussion by stating that he wants to make this as brief and concise as possible. He appreciates people's time and does not want to keep the Parish Council Members here too late. The bottom line is that Charles Stephen contacted Dr. Pete Kambelos shortly after the meeting and identified an honest mistake. Charles identified Item 16, Section 3 that stipulates that any motion made as a part of any capital construction project must be approved by 2/3 of those in attendance and qualified to vote. The motion that was made was marked for passage by a majority vote. Charles was very upfront in presenting the problem that occurred. Therefore, based on that opinion, that specific vote marked for passage was invalidated. Dr. Pete Kambelos' recommendation is that we have already created a committee to study this project. He selected people who are extremely passionate about this project to serve. Lew Assaley and Sam Boulmetis are also willing to serve. He is sure others with expertise will also be willing to serve. The Parish Council will have adequate time to study this Option #3 in time for the Fall General Assembly Meeting at which time those in attendance can be provided with a set of facts that have been studied in such that those facts will be exposed for discussion and consideration. At that time those in attendance can make an informed decision rather than a decision based on information that has been incomplete and insufficient. This is in summary of how Dr. Pete Kambelos feels about this matter. He is not opposed with proceeding along these lines if it is the will of the Parish, if it is studied and it is found to be a reasonably feasible option. The Parish has a right to know what they voted for and to adequately study the facts. He is certainly open to constructive commentary.
 - Peter Aamodt moves that the Parish Council commit itself to call a special General Assembly Meeting for consideration of this construction project to be held no later than September 22, 2013. Eleni Haralamos seconds the motion.
 - George Kalemanis asks about the requirements for calling a special General Assembly Meeting.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos states that he is not opposed to holding a special General Assembly Meeting so long as there is an adequate amount of time for the committee to study this effectively and efficiently.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos asks for clarification from Peter Aamodt. He wants clarification regarding what will be discussed at this meeting. Only the building? At this meeting, would the General Assembly would vote yes or no on the project?

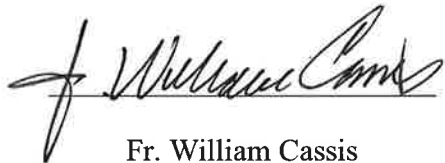
- Nick Sarakatsannis says that this needs to be put in writing 10 days prior to the vote.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos states that we must issue a letter to the General Assembly that a special meeting will be held and what the subject will be.
- Eugene Nicholas thinks that the Fall General Assembly meeting is in November.
- Maria Kontopos comments that we need a better way to count the votes. Father Bill will consult to see if we can do it by writing.
- Ron Nichols asks what the purpose is of having people attend who are not eligible to vote
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos answers that is it for information purposes.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos suggests that as people sign in you give them a green paper. If the Parishioner is there for information only you do not give them a green paper.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that conceivably someone could make a motion that is seconded to vote on the building facility at the special General Assembly meeting. This meeting is designed to provide information to the General Assembly. The information will be given in advance. People will come to the meeting having studied the materials and will be ready to vote.
- Peter Aamodt asks who will run this special General Assembly meeting
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that the chairmen of the committee appointed with Parish Council members and Parishioners should run the meeting.
- Eugene Nicholas states that the fall General Assembly meeting is a packed agenda because there are audit committee reports, Parish Council elections, etc. It makes sense to tackle this issue in a separate assembly meeting.
- The motion passes with Nick Sarakatsannis opposing the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 8:15 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.


Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary