



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 18, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis

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

Members Absent: Eleni Haralamos, Pete Rodish, John Sakelos

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Chris Jonson

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Father 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 7:00 pm

President's Remarks: Dr. Pete Kambelos thanked Andy Stefanopoulos for the meal. Dr. Pete Kambelos informed the Parish Council that it is his understanding that Chris Chryssovergis has stepped forward to co-chair the Panegyri. He is an ideal candidate and Dr. Pete encourages everyone to support him in his co-chairmanship.

Secretary's Report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the October 17, 2013 meeting as presented by Maria Kontopos were unanimously approved as corrected.
- Received Correspondence: The Shepherd's Staff, which included a picture of the Clergy-Laity.

Clergy Remarks:

- **Father Bill Cassis:** Father Bill reported that we will have a second tray on Sunday for the victims of the typhoon. Eugene Nicholas will inform the visiting Priest in Father Bill's absence. The Parish Council is to pass the tray at the end of the Liturgy. This second tray was a request through the entire Archdiocese.
 - Father Bill informed the Parish Council that he will be out of town from November 21-29. Father John from Detroit will be here in his absence. Father Mark from Dayton will be on call also.

- With the Parish Council elections on December 8, there is a required Parish Council seminar that all candidates have to attend to be on the ballot.
- Father Bill received a call from His Eminence about Father Irenaeus. He asked the Parish Council to consider the travel expenses for his car to be \$500 instead of \$350. We were giving Father Paul \$350, but Father Irenaeus is receiving \$500 back home.

Treasurer's Report:

- The October 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email.
- Andy Stefanopoulos asks when we expect to tap into the line of credit?
 - Eugene Nicholas answers probably next Monday. He has to write a check between \$58,000-\$66,000 to Holland. We are waiting to hear exactly what they need on the first payment for the roof. We have to pay half of the cost upon completion and the balance is due within 30 days. It should be completed by next Monday. There have not been any surprises, so the expense should run in right at budget.
- Ianthe Schulte makes a motion to approve the October 2013 financial statements. Ron Nichols seconds the motion. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's Report:

- Roof Repair: Eugene Nicholas comments on the nice sermon from Father Bill and Father Joseph. We received a nice bump in the roof repair. We have collected \$27,500 from 81 families. If we add the \$5,300 contributed by the Parish Council from the Clergy-Laity, we have collected approximately \$32,800.
- Non-Profits: Occasionally our church has allowed non-profits to use our building at no cost. The Special Olympics are coming next year to use our gym. They do not have a budget for this kind of events. If anyone is opposed, please let Eugene Nicholas know, but at this point we will offer it to them.

Old Business:

- Fall General Assembly Meeting: Eleni Zaferes wanted the Parish Council to look at getting three new ovens for the kitchen. Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that this is not a new issue; it has just been kicked down the road for years in this facility. His suggestion is a renovation option should be discussed that will include cosmetic issues for the gym, hall, etc. This kitchen renovation should be a part of a bigger plan.
 - George Kalemanis makes a motion to defer this to the maintenance committee and come back to the Parish Council with suggestions to satisfy this requirement and any future requirement
 - Father Bill comments that we should construct a committee based on the talent of the greater community. We want one of our architects, restaurant owners and construction people. We should come up with a good master plan.
 - Eugene Nicholas comments that this should be done before baking starts in March. In many cases, the only way to make those ovens good again is to take them apart and put all new elements in them. We need to get new ovens. We also really need people to help keep the ovens clean, not only by us hiring people to clean, but from the groups that use them.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos seconds George Kalemanis' motion

- Peter Aamodt comments that it is good that we are talking about getting this issue to a committee. We should fast track some of this to get it to January. We spend a lot of time in the Parish Council worrying about the efficiency and maximizing the revenue for the Panegyri. The ovens are not calibrated properly and the parishioners just know not to use certain ones. We end up wasting some of our supplies for baking because the ovens do not work properly.
- Nick Georgiton comments that if we send it to committee, there are some parts, like the ovens, that should be done quickly. He asks that George's motion include a timeframe of purchasing the ovens. If we want to give the larger project 2-3 months, that is fine, but he thinks a month is sufficient for the committee to study ovens.
- Father Bill comments that he thought after the plan for the Special General Assembly meeting failed that the group was supposed to meet and discuss a greater plan for maintenance issues.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos commented that he still stands by this, but has gotten feedback that we should let it sit and let the tempers calm down. He does not think we should ignore a more cost effective cosmetic renovation that includes the kitchen. He would like to see the building committee look into this greater plan.
- Andy Stefanopoulos comments that buying three ovens would get everyone happy again and we can move them around when we need to do other things in the kitchen. We need to keep the vision because the kitchen needs work.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that he hates to see the women stop baking. We need to do something in the short term to get things up and running. The discussion should be held in the prospective of a bigger plan.
- Eugene Nicholas comments that he has a lot of information on the ovens already. He just need an approval and the money.
- George Kalemanis amends his motion that the oven purchase should be preapproved by the Parish Council not exceeding \$24,000 if the building committee decides that they want to replace the ovens and to have the punch list of the greater plan.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos seconds the amended motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- Father Ireneaus' Car Allowance: Dr. Pete Kambelos reiterates that we have been approached by the Metropolitan to increase the car allowance to accommodate Father Ireneaus. Ron Nichols makes a motion to increase Father Ireneaus' car allowance to \$500 a month instead of \$350. Ianthe Schulte seconds the motion.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos comments that if the Metropolitan tells us we should do it, we should go along with it. He thinks this is very fair.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that we are raising the car allowance to meet the needs of an Associate Priest, not a Priest in Training. We want to make that clear in order that we do not set a precedent that would provide for a Priest in Training. Since we have recruited an Associate Priest, this increased amount is more justifiable.
 - The motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Stewardship: Andy Stefanopoulos informs the Parish Council that we are \$25,000 behind from last year. We have six weeks to go. The average stewardship is down \$22/head. He does not know why this is going backwards. Peter Aamodt and Andy Stefanopoulos will recruit a committee of outsiders and some insiders of the Parish Council and charge them with the idea of calling Parishioners. They will put together a script to call people. We do not want to know how much people are giving; all we will ask is if they can afford to give 15% more.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that the materials were very good. The responsibility of the stewardship growth is not solely the responsibility of the people on the Parish Council; it is everyone's responsibility. He thinks that the committee should include the very vocal people in our community.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos comments that Dean Francis and Nick J. Sarakatsannis has expressed interest. Please let him know if you have other names that would be interested in helping.
 - Nick Georgiton volunteered to help and Peter Aamodt comments that we need to get this going in December.
- Thanksgiving Food Drive: Peter Aamodt informed the Parish Council that we have close to 140 turkeys. We probably need another 60 turkeys, but we have 200 people already signed up. We had a very good response over the weekend. It makes trying to set up a similar goal for Christmas very likely. We do need volunteers after Sunday School to help package everything. People are coming on Monday to pick up their meals.
- Toddler Room: Chris Jonson informed the Parish Council that with the exception of the floor, the Toddler Room is finished. The original floor is a tile floor, so we can look into replacing the floor when we go to replace the Bishop's Walk. Eugene Nicholas says we will announce the Toddler Room when we have the furniture.
- New Committee: Nick Georgiton proposed a motion on the formation of an ad hoc committee to look at a replacement reserve fund to replace things that break down (ie: carpet, pews, A/C, ovens, etc.) It should be a comprehensive list of everything that could break down and how much money should be set aside in each budget year to make sure things are able to be replaced when they need to be replaced. He suggested that we have this list done before the next budget meeting so it is on next year's budget. He would be happy to head this committee.
 - Chris Jonson comments that this entails an extensive walk through of the entire Church. We can also put things on the list when things were purchased.
 - Nick Georgiton comments that this should include anything that is replaceable. The emergency repair fund is a great idea and a great start, but a replacement fund is good along with it because it is planned. I think the funding should be a line item on the budget and it just gets funded.
 - Peter Aamodt seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

- Pews: Andy Stefanopoulos comments that he has been approached by many people about putting book holders on the back of the pews. He has no idea how much it would cost to have it done.
 - Chris Jonson comments that when the new pews came in, we did not have them. People were leaving things in them with the other books. Father Bill echoes this

comment that people were using them as garbage disposals. If we want to put them back in, we can get the bids as long as it does not create a mess.

- Andy Stefanopoulos says that he is disappointed that people put junk in there. However, when people go into the church and forget their books they do not want to go back out in the Narthex to get the books. He suggests to the Parish Council that we get a quote on what it would cost to put the shelves in the back of the pews.

Good of the Order:

- George Kalemanis: Good food and good seeing everyone.
- Alex Geromes: Thank you for the food.
- Nick Sarakatsannis: Good seeing everyone. He has been out of church for a couple weeks deer hunting.
- Ianthe Schulte: Thanks for dinner
- Father Bill: Pass.
- Nick Georgiton: Pass.
- Peter Aamodt: Father Bill safe travels and Happy Thanksgiving.
- Maria Kontopos: Thank you for the food, safe travels Father Bill and my Dad's restaurant opens on Wednesday so please feel free to check it out.
- Ron Nichols: Thank you for the food.
- Andy Stefanopoulos: Happy Birthday to myself for tomorrow.
- Dr. Pete: 1) Happy Thanksgiving to everyone; 2) Maria's Dad's restaurant is opening and good luck to them; and 3) In looking at the candidates for Parish Council next year, there are new faces and I am happy to see a strong woman has stepped forward to serve.

ADJOURNMENT

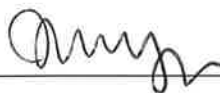
Call to adjourn: Andy Stefanopoulos makes a motion to adjourn at 8:34pm. Peter Aamodt seconds the motion.

Closing prayer: Father Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary