



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 March 20, 2014

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Irenaeus Cox

**Parish Council Members present:** Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Jim Gelis, David Greene, Maria Kontopos, Peter Rodish, John Sakelos, and Nick Sarakatsannis

**Parish Staff:** None present

**Absent:** Frank Cook, Chris Jonson, Stacey Loukoumidis, Eugene Nicholas

### PRE-MEETING

**Opening Prayer:** Father William Cassis gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting

**Call to Order:** Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 7:03

**President's Remarks:** Andy Stefanopoulos let Bill Tsacalis take the floor to speak about the American Farm School in Thessaloniki. Bill said that the Greek Taverna Night fundraiser was coming up. He described the history of the American Farm School, as well as its activities and achievements, both past and present. Andy then mentioned that he'd received a call regarding the old 10-hour candle stand that used to be in the narthex; Fr. Cassis said that he saw no need for putting them up again, as they were sooty, fragile, and difficult to use and maintain, but that if someone wanted to donate new ones the church would be open to it. John Sakelos added that he'd received a complaint about the beeswax candles; Fr. Cassis said that they are the traditional candles, such as are used in Greece, and they burn more cleanly with less soot and smoke.

### **Secretary's Report:**

- Minutes: Chris Chryssovergis moved to postpone accepting the February minutes, Maria Kontopos seconded, and the motion passed.
- Received Correspondence: Only correspondence was the Shepherd's Staff.

### **Clergy Remarks:**

- Father Bill Cassis:
  - He mentioned that he would be out of town the next Saturday for a retreat but should be back by Sunday.
  - The next PC meeting would be pushed until after Pascha. He explained the Holy Week duty schedule. He also explained the tray schedule, and mentioned that we

need to do a better job of explaining to the parish that giving is an act of worship; passing trays during the liturgy is a good illustration of that principle. He expressed a wish to get rid of unnecessary fundraisers and try to move to operating by stewardship and offerings only.

- Last year Fr. Cassis noticed that our Great and Holy Friday procession order was incorrect. He passed around a corrected procession order, and explained the need for us to clear a path for the Choir to join the procession at the appropriate point.
- Fr. Irenaeus Cox had no comments.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Peter Rodish:
  - The endowment has reached almost \$900,000, our liabilities are down, and we are still only slowly paying off the roof. He had heard a rumor that some people thought the roof was covered under an insurance claim; that rumor is false.
  - The Line of Credit remains unchanged at \$86,000.

#### **Old Business:**

- Regarding work on the kitchen and ovens, Nick Sarakatsannis said that there was a potential warranty issue, and some electrical issues had cropped up but the electrical system rework should be mostly resolved. The ladies expressed a desire for some kind of utensil storage so Nick was looking into some shelving. He also mentioned that they replaced the spray nozzles for the sink, but they are now much lower volume and less powerful. Over all, the ladies love the ovens and have already started baking.

#### **New Business:**

- Brass Restoration:
  - Andy Stefanopoulos said that the sample area was very impressive. Nick Sarakatsannis said the bid for the entire project was \$17,500. He moved that we approve the project and move forward with the restoration, Peter Aamodt seconded. After much discussion of the cleaning process, potential funding mechanisms, and the importance of beautification to the church's fundamental purpose in the world, Andy called the vote and the motion passed.
  - Nick brought up the seal, which is wobbly and needs to be fixed, as well as a large crack in the marble flooring and frayed areas of the carpet.
- American Farm School:
  - Fr. Cassis suggested we fund a table for \$1,250, with seating for 10 people. Peter Aamodt moved that we fund the table, and Jim Gelis seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Stewardship:
  - Pending feedback from Fr. Cassis and Eugene Nicholas regarding ongoing preparations for a phone campaign, there is no report prepared.
  - Nick suggested making it a rule that everyone have to fill out a stewardship card to be considered a member in good standing of the parish. Peter Rodish suggested that it could be done without requiring a pledge amount. Fr. Cassis recommended we target it for the 2015 or 2016 stewardship campaign so that we don't take people by

surprise. If we proposed a schedule for when the policy would be implemented as well as the reasoning for why it is necessary then it would give people time to come around to it. He also mentioned that other parishes already have this requirement. Fundamentally stewardship is not a matter of book keeping so much as an act of piety.

- **Beautification:**
  - Andy Stefanopoulos requested that we assemble a list of projects and solicit volunteers who can do as much of it as they can.
  - Nick explained that the beautification committee's responsibility was strictly for the worship space, with the remainder of the building being under the Facilities Committee. Fr. Cassis requested that the Facilities Committee put together a project report. Jim Gelis explained that such a facilities assessment would be very comprehensive and detailed, potentially including a 2-day physical inspection and a few weeks creating a report, and could be used to plan a number of projects, including scheduled maintenance and money-saving equipment upgrades. Peter Aamodt mentioned that we could establish a contingency line item in the budget to allow for saving funds for projects we know will be coming up, before any work actually has to be done. Peter Rodish added that a facilities assessment would allow us to set aside funds based on the predicted lifetimes of building resources.
- **Car Raffle:**
  - Andy explained the raffle - \$100 per ticket, with a chance for prizes plus a dinner for 2 for each ticket.
  - Andy mentioned that Eugene had brought to his attention an alternative raffle plan tied to the Panegyri. Discussion of various possible alternative formats ensued.
- **Panegyri:**
  - The poster is ready. It was done by three parish youths: Zach Nicholas, Mike Stephan, and Zoe Storch. The ladies will be coming in to start making syrup and chopping walnuts.

#### **Comments:**

- Peter Aamodt mentioned that a metropolitan of the Antiochian Church had fallen asleep in the Lord.
- Fr. Cox reminded the Parish Council that we have a spiritual duty in addition to our financial one. If the parish perceives us as purely concerned with finances then it can cause problems with donations and stewardship as people view our church and its council as focused only on worldly concerns.
- John Sakelos said that he had been having some health issues that interfered with his Lenten service attendance but that he hoped to increase his participation going forward.
- Jim Gelis said he was glad to be back on the Parish Council, and he thanked Fr. Irenaeus for his comments about the higher calling of the Parish Council.
- Andy Stefanopoulos reminded everyone that it was important for them to mingle with the parishioners to let the people know that we care about the parish and its people and want to hear their concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Peter Rodish moved to adjourn the meeting ending at 9:05. Maria Kontopos seconded.

**Closing prayer:** Father Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,

  
Fr. William Cassis                      Andy Stefanopoulos                      Matthew Neuendorf  
Proistamenos                              President                                      Assistant Secretary