



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Mark Emroll, Fr. William Redmon.

**Members present:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Buzzy Gaz, George Haralamos, Bill Kanelopoulos, Stacey Loukoumidis, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou, Nektarios Papasavvas

**Members absent:** David Greene

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

#### **President's remarks:**

- Change is constant, and we can only be thankful for those changes that occur and the opportunities that they present
- PC members need to sign up for committees, if we can find one that speaks to us, it makes for a very fulfilling experience

#### **Secretary's report:**

- Karen moved to accept the January minutes as amended, Dimitrios seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence consisted of the Shepherd's Staff from the Metropolis

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Mark:
  - Thanks to the Parish Council for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, it brought him great joy to see the whole Parish assembled and the Sunday Church School students entering according to plan; it was all very enjoyable and a tribute to the community
  - Father continues to meet with Parish members and organization leaders

- Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, February 27; Council members need to remember to attend as many services as possible
- Services will be on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and for the Wednesdays Fr. Mark will host a Lenten series after each service, the topic for the year being the various Sundays of Lent
- After much consideration, it is necessary to change the order in which the congregation receives Holy Communion, with the target implementation date being March 5
- The initial proposal is to use four Council members, two in the back, and one each in the middle and the front
- First to partake will be the choir, followed by special needs, then families with children who need to be held (infants), then row by row from front to back, then Narthex overflow, and finally Altar Boys; Fr. Mark will give a brief explanation of the new order prior to Communion for the next several Sundays
- Presvytera Ginny is leading an effort to engage with UC and other local college students; UC has petitioned for formal OCF membership
- As part of this, for March 5 we plan to invite students from UC, Xavier, NKU, Miami, and Oxford to attend liturgy for the Sunday of Orthodoxy; food and discussion followed so that our Parish and our clergy will be available for them
- Fr. William:
  - HOPE/JOY did a lesson on the Publican and the Pharisee, as well as holding a welcome for Fr. Mark and Presvytera Ginny
  - GOYA's March 18 meeting will include both their Lenten retreat and the beginning of the officer nomination process, with elections to be held at the May picnic
  - Taverna Night profits were up from last year
  - The Philoptochos baking went well
  - Basketball season is approaching
  - Camp dates are set: July 23-9, Vacation Church School will be delayed a week to accommodate
  - Stephanie Bottomley will chair VCS
  - The Souper Bowl of Caring held three weeks of donations for the food pantry; in the past, GOYA did two weeks for the pantry and the third week for selling subs to benefit their own activities, which practice they will try to revive going forward

**Treasurer's report:**

- North Side Checking balance was up more than \$40,000 over this time last year; as of this morning the balance was \$66,792
- The Endowment Fund is at around \$1.1 million; comparatively, last January was rough on the markets and the fund had dipped below the million dollar threshold
- We have no Line of Credit balance still, however we do have our loan liability of \$342,682, so we still need to collect both pledges and moneys
- The Building Fund is at \$6,603, enough to cover one payment on the mortgage

- The Expense category was higher than anticipated due to a \$4,025 building renovation expense for Audio-Visual and other miscellaneous payments; all contractors have been paid, so all that we own now are loan payments

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- The Nor-Com quote came in for the A/V cabinet door at \$550.99; we have exceeded the budget for the renovation project so we would need to make a motion to take action
- Remember, if you or anyone sees anything in the building that needs to be fixed, let Eugene know; Craig can fix things right away if they are brought to his attention
- Donations for the building fund have slowed significantly; we need to make an effort to increase the rate of fundraising for this, as we only have enough to cover a single payment; it is important that we get a further \$58,000 pledged as soon as possible
- For the General Assembly, the Monfort Heights Skyline Chili will be donating Chili, Salad, and a Vegetarian option
- We only need three chairpersons for the Panegyri: Skyline, Yiayia's Mezethakia, and Pastry Baking; we have two Parking chairs and are eliminating the Trip Raffle and shifting some other booths around
- The Panegyri leadership team will be the same as last year, with Eugene and Chris Chrysosvergis as co-chairs, and Jim Betas, Paul Misali, Nick L. Sarakatsannis, Nektarios Papasavvas, George Kalemanis, and Peter Rodish on the leadership team.

**Old Business:**

- Security
  - Nor-Com will get us a quote by next Wednesday
  - We want cameras in the sanctuary and around the building; positioning for these will be important
  - We would also like to have motion sensors of some kind as well as door sensors
  - Recording should be able to store up to a few months, and the cameras at the doors should be able to dial in on license plates
  - Nick would like to establish a timeline of all security incidents that have occurred
  - Any measures we take won't guarantee prevention of anything, but will help immensely with follow-up and resolution of any events that may happen

**Stewardship Report:**

- Pledged families are down slightly from last year and total pledges are also down
- We have a co-chair in George Haralamos
- The committee will try to meet as soon as can be scheduled

**Committee Reports:**

- Strategic Planning Committee
  - The second meeting was held last week
  - The mission statement is finished, and the vision statement is around half done

- The next meeting will be March 9, with the goal to finish the vision and decide on a strategic direction
- The committee will be inviting several more people to join

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Dimitrios moved to adjourn, Bill seconded, the motion passed.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. William offered the closing prayer at 8:37 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary