

METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes March 16, 2017

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

MEETING

Call to order: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

President's remarks:

- David has been doing an excellent job of covering weekly services during Lent. We will receive a Holy Week schedule tonight.
- We still have a few months open for hosting the dinner prior to Parish Council meetings.
- We still need committees to be filled.

Secretary's report:

- Dimitrios moved to accept the February minutes as corrected, Nektarios seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - The Archdiocese conflicts disclosure policy needs to be signed and returned by each council member for keeping on file.
 - Thanks to the council members for their support with the change to the order of distribution of Holy Communion. It seems to be going smoothly. If anyone has concerns or comments please let Fr. Mark know.

- The move to Cincinnati isn't quite complete. The moving truck has delivered boxes.
- Thanks to Fr. William for his assistance during the week.
- Fr. Mark distributed the schedule for Holy Week and discussed procedures.
- We should pass a tray for every service, giving people an opportunity to give. We can begin this practice with the Saturday of Lazarus.
- Fr. William:
 - In March, HOPE/JOY discussed what it means to be Orthodox going into Lent; with the goal of showing the youth that they are part of a wider community both across the world and throughout time.
 - GOYA's retreat topic will be difficult decisions: following Christ in a troubled world. Afterward they will go to Lazer Kraze. Officer nominations will be opened at the retreat and will close at the end of the April meeting. Fr. Mark and Fr. William worked together to develop descriptions for each office.
 - Thanks to Presvytera Ginny for helping to arrange for OCF members from UC, Miami, NKU, and Ohio State to visit our Parish.
 - REAL is the new YAL, and Fr. William, Fr. Mark, and Peggy Kehayes are going to be meeting to establish a direction for it going forward.
 - Vacation Church School will have a curriculum meeting coming up; they also hope to recruit an additional instructor due to a significant increase in attendance over recent years.
 - Camp is coming up. Our Parish is sending one counselor and has a second parishioner who has inquired about being one. We had seven campers last year and hope to have more this year.

Treasurer's report:

- Month over month we are pretty even, but as of today North Side has a balance around ten thousand lower than last. Year to year we are up over twelve thousand from February of 2016.
- We are lagging in Stewardship due to fewer people contributing more slowly. We are behind about twenty-four thousand from this time last year.
- Our Capital Improvement Fund needs to be able to continue to cover monthly payments. We currently have enough to cover a little over one such payment.
- The current Endowment Fund balance is \$1,126,290.
- The loan has a balance of \$335,300.
- If we continue our current average pace of Stewardship at around \$55,000 per month, we would far exceed our budgeted total.
- Overall income is down and expenses are up compared to last year, due largely to our capital improvement project.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Council members should recall that the folders provided for us have tabs available for labeling.

- Our new printer finally got installed. We have an updated lease for a significantly faster printer that will save us over \$100 per month.
- Our new Greeter table inspired a donation for a second one for Narthex.
- We found five more leaks around the building. Holland redid some caulking and flashing and fixed the drain over the sanctuary. Most of it was warranted except the caulking, which ran around \$900. We also did a full inspection of the high roof over the gym.
- Hall rentals are up significantly. Our two regulars are back, ballroom dancing and the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, and we currently have two graduations in the Small Hall, three weddings in the Large Hall, six ballroom dancing events, and one organizational party all between now and next May. Totaling 12, it is double what we hosted last year.
- Panegyri baking has begun. We finished Pasta Flora last week. Prep work is going well. This Saturday will be a teaching session for making Baklava. We are still looking for a chair for Yiayia's Mezethakia.
- Our accountant, Garry Kohorst, lost his son a few days ago. He was diagnosed nine months previously with esophageal cancer.

Old Business:

- Security
 - Nick received two quotes so far, with a third pending from Aegis.
 - Buzzy met with Bob Liston and Fr. Mark. They walked the property and recommended that we start with cleaning and brightening our eternal light fixtures and suggested a few areas for additional lighting. Some lights are out and need to be replaced as well. They also advised that motion detectors, alarms, and cameras would all help individually but would work best with all three together as part of a comprehensive system.
 - They also consulted with Aaron Schlueter, who volunteered at Panegyri as a Boy Scout, and is currently a police officer for the Village of Green Hills. He reaffirmed the lighting improvement suggestions.
 - Both Aaron and Bob suggested we put the sanctuary cameras on a computer that will record them in addition to the current continuous broadcast.
- Audio/Visual Cabinet Door
 - Justin moved to buy the door for the A/V cabinet as proposed by Nor-Com. Dimitrios seconded. The motion passed.

New Business:

- Holy Week
 - Justin will set up a Sign-Up Genius schedule for filling duties.
- Projection System
 - Some organizations have asked to be able to promote events on our projections screens. We will establish guidelines for use but so long as submissions meet those guidelines and are from either official or closely associated organizations they will be displayed.

- Garry Kohorst's son
 - Chris moved to donate \$150 to the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association and another \$100 for flowers. Stacey seconded. The motion was withdrawn. Buzzy moved to donate as per the family's request \$150 to the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association and in addition to send a flower gift to Garry's home not to exceed \$75. Chris seconded. George called the question. The motion passed.
- Email motions
 - The governance committee needs to meet to determine if Parish By-laws should be updated to allow motions to be proposed and passed via email.

Stewardship Report:

- The committee met, and the main take-away was the need to meet again to pull information from the pledge cards we have received to allow for follow-up with parishioners.
- We are consistently down around \$20,000 in receipts from this time last year.

Committee Reports:

- Strategic Planning Committee
 - The mission statement is complete: To proclaim, preserve and practice the Orthodox Christian faith, to glorify God, serve our community, and grow our Parish, for the salvation of all. We intend to communicate this to the Parish and make sure it resonates before moving on to a strategy.
 - Special Events Committee
 - The Agape Luncheon is coming up fast. If anyone wants to stay after the Saturday morning service to help put things together that would be great. We also need helpers to check people in at the door.

ADJOURNMENT


Call to adjourn: Buzzy moved to adjourn, George seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. William offered the closing prayer at 8:54 PM.

Approved as written,


Fr. Mark Emroll
Protostamenos


Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President


Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary