



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 21, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll.

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

Members absent: Chris Chryssovergis, George Haralamos

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

MEETING

Call to order: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

President's remarks:

- We as a council accomplished quite a lot over the last month, including honoring Fr. Mark's 25th year since ordination, the annual picnic, and Name Tag Sunday.
- We need to prepare for Parish Council elections. We have 5 people who will not be eligible to run again, and Nick and George will not be standing for reelection. That means we will need 7 candidates, though of course more is always better.

Secretary's report:

- Stacey moved to accept the minutes as presented, Buzzy seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included a thank-you letter from Fr. Mark for his 25th Ordination Anniversary luncheon.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - Mr. Nick is unable to join us as he is attending an Archdiocesan symposium in Pittsburg, regarding being an Orthodox family in a changing world, at the request of Metropolitan Nicholas. He will be back next Sunday.

- Fr. Mark will be attending Clergy-Laity in Buffalo, NY, leaving on the 27th and returning on the 30th. Dimitri will accompany him along with Lew Assaley and Sotiris Pagdadis. Philoptochos will also send representatives. The parish honorees will both be mentioned, though Helen Cimarosti will be unable to attend. Gus Siegel might make it.
- We still have no date for Mr. Nick's ordination. Metropolitan Nicholas is serving as the intendant of the Metropolis of Chicago, which complicates his schedule significantly.
- Sunday Church School resumed in September, with a slightly different routine than normal for the first day to allow for the inclusion of a Blessing of the Waters. We distributed the new handbooks to all the families.
- GOYA and HOPE/JOY are kicking off. Mr. Nick led a HOPE/JOY activity in early September and GOYA attended a soccer game with Fr. Mark. Last Sunday they held a fellowship event after church that included a picnic and subsequent discussion.
- The next OCF event will be on October 22, including hosting them at the parish for the service, inviting them to attend and hold a fellowship meal and discussion afterward. The UC OCF is discussing inviting Fr. Mark to visit them on campus. Fr. Mark wishes to obtain contact information for all parish college students, including those who are not attending locally.
- Thanks for our patience and assistance during this time, especially given the length of Communion with only a single priest. We do need to remind everyone of the proper manner in which to approach and receive Holy Communion.
- Fr. Mark is providing us with a list of guidelines for when people ought not to enter the nave, and the upcoming *Voice* will include updated guidelines for memorial practices.

Treasurer's report:

- North Side balance is currently around \$150,000, which is significantly better than it was at this time last year at \$89,000. The line of credit remains untapped.
- The capital improvement fund is once more at the minimum of \$1,000. The building committee needs to redouble their efforts to guarantee that we receive sufficient monies to cover the monthly payment.
- August Stewardship was around \$28,000, but we are still quite behind from this time last year.
- The restricted building fund took in around \$5,000 for the month.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Financial
 - We have had no significant capital improvement donations yet this month, but there are some gifts anticipated to be coming in soon.
- Building
 - We had additional cracking of the Sanctuary ceiling at the same place as before. Holland came out and did some work, but we will only know if they caught the

problem after we get a little more rain. The southern side has been in decent shape so far, but we won't know about the north-eastern side until more time has passed.

- We found a stain on the gym ceiling. Craig examined the roof and found a tear, which Holland has been called in to repair. There is also a drain issue with the gym drinking fountain. We may have to pull it out to get access to the drain. We have a plumber scheduled to come in.
- The compressor in the basement failed last month. It was not repairable so we replaced it at a cost of around \$3,200. We will eventually have to deal with the Sanctuary HVAC.
- The exit door in the kitchen stairwell on the landing is in very bad shape, with a rusted frame that threatens its integrity. It is not an immediate threat, but we should try to get it replaced perhaps by next spring.
- Craig will not be present this Sunday until after 2:00 PM. Matthew will be coming in extra early to help with opening the church building.

New Business:

- Proposed 2018 budget
 - We need to examine and approve a budget to present to the Fall General Assembly.
 - Justin moved to accept the budget as written by the committee and present it to the General Assembly. Dimitri seconded. The motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Thanks for all the help with Name Tag Sunday. Most people were happy to participate.
- We are still about \$20,000 off from last year in both pledges and receipts.
- We need somebody to ask Carrie Petrou of Philoptochos to provide a stewardship message for the Voice for November. It will be the first in a series of articles written on behalf of the Stewardship Committee by members of the parish family organizations.
- Fr. Mark will compose and introductory letter to include with our updated trifold mailer.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities
 - The committee needs to review some pricing for the lighting, but has not yet met. Nick met with some contractors and consulted with Buzzy. There will likely be additional expenses required for preparing the existing lighting mounts for a new lighting and cabling. LSI gave a quote that would include adapters and cast a wider light pool, but it was pretty high. It might be lower than other options, however, which might include heightened labor costs involved in modifying our existing lighting poles.
- Strategic Planning
 - The committee finished the mission, the vision, and the strategy pillars, as well as outlined tactics to approach each. Now they need to identify owners for each pillar, project, and initiative. They need people to step up, including especially

people who are not part of Parish Council. It might be worth meeting with the heads of various parish ministries and organizations to disseminate these findings and to seek buy-in to the execution of these pillars. Ideally these organization leaders would then work within their respective groups to recruit more people. This is the most critical step of the entire process, as it is how we translate planning into action. Nektarios wanted to arrange this meeting prior to the General Assembly but he ran out of time, so at the Assembly the committee will present their accomplishments to date and announce their planned next step. Nektarios will explain the mission and vision and lay out action points for executing the strategies.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Buzzy moved to adjourn, Dimitri seconded. The motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:38 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary