



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 19, 2013

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Members Absent: Eleni Haralamos, Andy Stefanopoulos

Parish Staff: Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas

Newly Election Parish Council Members: Justin Bates, Frank Cook, Chris Chryssovergis, David Greene, Matthew Neuendorf

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Father Irenaeus Cox 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 congratulates the new Parish Council members. He wishes them the best as they do what they must do to preserve the fiscal integrity of the Parish. Dr. Pete Kambelos also welcomes Father Irenaeus. Dr. Pete Kambelos also thanks everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council.

Secretary's Report:

- Maria Kontopos presented a gift to Dr. Pete Kambelos as a thank you for serving as the President of Parish Council.
- Minutes: the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting as presented by Maria Kontopos were unanimously approved.
- Received Correspondence: A Christmas card from Metropolitan Nicholas.

Clergy Remarks:

- Father Bill Cassis: Father Bill welcomes the new Parish Council Members. The oath of office will be administered on December 29, 2013 following Divine Liturgy. As soon as we

conclude the oath, the newly sworn in Parish Council members will meet in the board room for the election of officers.

- Father Bill informed the Parish Council about the Christmas church schedule. There will be Divine Liturgy on Christmas Eve at 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM. There will be Matins at 8:30 AM on Christmas morning with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM. Generally we have a large crowd on Christmas Eve evening and there will be a second tray passed by the Philoptichos. Please let Dr. Pete Kambelos know if you will be here to serve in the Narthex. If we do not have enough people to pass the tray, we can stand at the door and the parishioners can make a contribution on their way out.
- Father Irenaeus Cox: Father Irenaeus informed the Parish Council that he intends to continue the reading group. If there are other ministries that Father Paul was doing, please let him know and he will be happy to continue those ministries.

Treasurer's Report:

- The November 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email.
- Maria Kontopos makes a motion to approve the November 2013 financial statements. Ianthe Schulte seconds the motion. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's Report:

- Food Pantry: Eugene Nicholas informs the Parish Council that we have distributed 207 complete meals for Thanksgiving. We should distribute between 220-250 meals for Christmas.
- Roof Repair Update: We continue to get donations from Parishioners. AHEPA donated \$5,000. As of December 18, we have raised \$49,400. Eugene Nicholas will borrow another \$30,000 from the line of credit on Friday to make the next payment. Our line of credit balance will be at \$62,000. Eugene Nicholas recommends that the Parish Council considers passing a second tray each week for the Roof Fund starting in January. Eugene recommends passing the trays back-to-back or having a tray in the Narthex following Divine Liturgy.
- Kitchen Fire Suppression System: This is complete and has passed inspection.
- Stewardship Pledges: Since the 2014 mailing went out, we have received 78 pledge commitments. We have received pledges from 5 of our current Parish Council members and 2 from our incoming members. We have \$84,610 pledged for 2014 with an average of \$1,085 per family. This time last year we have \$71,400 pledges from 74 families with an average of \$965.

Old Business:

- 2014 Parish Council Election Update: The new Parish Council members, minus Stacy Loukoumidis, are present. Each newly elected member introduced himself.

New Business:

- Second Tray: Nick Georgiton made a motion to pass a second tray for all services going forward, with the exception of Sundays that are taken by certain groups in the church, for the roof fund until it is completely paid. Ianthe Schulte seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- Outreach Program: Nick Sarakatsannis asks for clarification of our outreach program. Do we have an obligation to satisfy the need? What happens if we fall short?
 - Father Bill informs the Parish Council that Eugene Nicholas will go out and find the money to purchase the food. If we fall short, Eugene runs up to Kroger with the cash donations. If we make a promise that we will give the meal, we are morally obligated to give that meal. Everything is word of mouth- other churches in this area are not meeting this need. Most of our patrons of the Outreach Program are from the Finneytown area.
 - Eugene Nicholas informs the Parish Council that the food pantry is not in the budget. It is fully funded through parishioner donations.
 - Father Bill says that the next responsibility will be for Pascha and Easter. The pantry is getting to the point that we will need a permanent volunteer to run it. It continues to grow and continues to need help.
 - Eugene Nicholas shares with the Parish Council that there was a woman who did not come to pick up her meal because she did not have enough gas to get to the church and get home. We told her that we would give her a \$15 Kroger card to get gas so she should still come to get her meal.

Committee Reports:

- Stewardship: Peter Aamodt comments that Eugene Nicholas has gone through the numbers, so he wanted to give the Parish Council the other part of Stewardship. The Stewardship Committee intends to set up a network that involves both Parish Council members and others so we reach out and touch every family in the community at least with a phone call.
 - Chris Chryssovergis encourages the Parish Council members to think about the gap we have in stewardship. It is hard to move the numbers and it requires a lot of effort and energy. We should all consider filling out a stewardship card just so the Parish can understand from a budget perspective. It does not matter what you are giving to the Church. But at the end of the day, if there is a gap, fundamentally as leaders should we lead. We should, and if we are able to, take what we pledged last year and pledge 5% more. Chris Chryssovergis encouraged each Parish Council member to increase their stewardship pledge by 5%-10%.
- Building: Nick Sarakatsannis informs the Parish Council that we have the quote from Sauder for the book holders. The holders would be 2-3 book size. The quote is \$3,887 just for the main floor. We can do the balcony, but it might not be necessary right now.
 - Chris Chryssovergis asks if we have thought about getting another opinion and price and use it as leverage against Sauder in case its estimate is too high?
 - Chris Jonson comments that this is a good price. We asked Sauder if they could do any better for us and they said it is the lowest price they can give us.
 - Eugene Nicholas comments that this is not something we can afford right now. He would like that if we do not make a motion today then we can discuss it in January.
 - Father Bill comments that he was originally opposed to this because he was the one having to clean up the pews. However, since this was raised and there were good arguments made, he has embraced it. He urged the Parish Council to walk through the Church and look at the condition of it. It is horrific and nothing has been done to care for it.

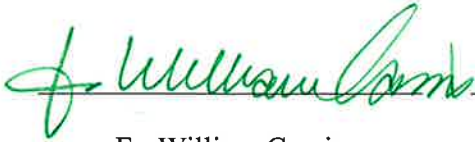
- Peter Aamodt makes a motion that the Parish Council approves in principal up to \$4,000 for the selection and installation of book racks in the back of the pews. George Kalemanis seconds the motion.
 - Chris Chryssovergis comments that this is not a lot of money. But when we are lacking in other places in the budget, like stewardship, we need to consider things that are .5% of our budget. One of our responsibilities is that we are spending our money appropriately.
 - Father Bill comments that in terms of this issue, he cannot judge it by a critical mass. There have been a number of people who have raised this issue. Andy Stefanopoulos was the one who first raised it, so I started asking around about the book racks. A lot of people have said “for a matter of convenience” they would like to have them.
 - Nick Sarakatsannis comments that he sees a lot of Parishioners that have a green or red book. They do not have a problem with picking it up on the way in. He also does not see many books laying on the pews after the Liturgy.
 - Ron Nichols comments that he is all for beautifying the Church, but book racks are not that.
 - Father Bill suggests that we move on and get a donor outside of the Parish Council. He will take this out of the responsibility of the Parish Council and we can move on.
 - George Kalemanis calls the question. Nick Sarakatsannis seconded. The motion failed.
- Kitchen Ovens: Nick Sarakatsannis discussed the fact that we previously passed a motion to purchase \$24,000 worth of ovens. What he is finding is that we overload the current ovens. The committee did some experimentation and they did not put as much in the ovens and the items came out perfect. Nick suggests that we buy two ovens and add them to the existing three so we can thin things out. Everything is connected with plugs and they can be moved. The ovens are roughly \$7,000/piece. If we buy these ovens and the same thing happens, then what? Nick is not ready to pull the trigger, and Eleni Zaferes is talking to some other ladies about this.
 - Peter Rodish asks when we decide to move forward, how long will it take to get the ovens in? Nick Sarakatsannis responds that more of them are in stock, so only a couple of weeks.
 - Father Bill comments that the electrical work will push the cost over what we have budgeted.
 - Eugene Nicholas comments that he likes Nick’s idea and we have to get the electrician involved.
 - Nick Sarakatsannis comments that he works for an electrical company and they sell everything we would need. He could get everything at cost or 10% above cost- we just need to tell the contractor that Nick will purchase all of equipment.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos suggests that we look into what it might cost to create a more portable solution. He thinks that if there is nothing wrong with the current ovens, just buying two new ones is the right way to go. Let’s take it back to the ladies and tell them we are working on this and see what they think. There is no need to rush this.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Maria Kontopos makes a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm. George Kalemanis seconds the motion.

Closing prayer: Father Irenaeus offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary