



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach

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

Members Absent: Ianthe Schulte

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

PRE-MEETING

Opening Prayer: Father Bill gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

President's Remarks: Dr. Pete Kambelos commented briefly on the Special General Assembly meeting. He suggested that since the option proposed failed, we revisit the issue of doing some renovations to the gym, to the area where we have the folding walls, to the Bishop's Walk, and to the restrooms. He thinks it is appropriate to do that now. The Building Committee may look into that in the next month or two with the best way to proceed. We have a fine structure with good bones that can host a variety of sorts as a gym and a banquet hall.

Dr. Pete Kambelos also mentioned that there are some people going off Council- himself and Nick Georgiton. Eleni Haralamos, George Kalemanis, Ron Nichols and Ianthe Schulte are eligible to run for a second term. Please make your intention known to the Governance Committee if you wish to remain on the Council. Dr. Pete Kambelos also encouraged the Parish Council Members to approach Parishioners to run for Parish Council.

Dr. Pete Kambelos mentioned that he would like for someone to make a motion under New Business that would provide for the restructuring of our building manager's job description so that he reports to our Parish Administrator and not to Father Bill.

Secretary's Report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting as presented by Maria Kontopos were unanimously approved as corrected.
- Received Correspondence: Received correspondence included two thank you notes- one from Janice Kellaris for the Parish Council's help with the Choir Convention and one from Katerina Stroplos for the scholarship. Received correspondence also included the Shepherd's Staff and a letter from the Friends of the Metropolis requesting a donation.

Clergy Remarks:

- Father Bill Cassis: Father Bill had no report
- Father Paul Truebenbach:
 - GOYA had its first meeting and it looks like it will have good parents and dedicated kids involved. He asked if anyone had any idea for GOYA to please let him know.
 - JOY/HOPE will have its first meeting on the first Friday of October. Christine Kehayes has done a great job with these groups.
 - Beth is back and the bookstore is up and running again.

Treasurer's Report:

- The August 2013 financial statements were presented by Nick Georgiton for review. All Parish Council members received it by email. Andy Stefanopoulos asked about the Endowment Fund management fees. Nick Georgiton answered that it runs approximately 1% of the total fund. Eugene Nicholas added that the fees we are paying are lower than normal market rate.
- Pete Rodish makes a motion to approve the August 2013 financial statements. John Sakelos seconds the motion. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Parish Administrator's Report:

- Eugene Nicholas informed the Parish Council that we have received \$7,255 from a total of 27 families in donations for the roof repair. We have not approved the second roof repair yet; the first one over the Sunday School classrooms should be done by this weekend and we have money in the bank to pay for that. We need a total of \$145,000 to finish all jobs. We have raised the line of credit to \$250,000, so we can borrow on that and pay the interest if needed. We will not stall the project, but let's see how the fundraising drive goes for the next couple of weeks.
- Eugene Nicholas asked the Parish Council whether we should switch the entertainment for the Panegyri. No one objected to the current entertainment.

Old Business:

- Clergy-Laity Conference: Peter Aamodt informed the Parish Council that we are on for next week. We have a total of 139 people. We also have another 149 guests attending the banquet, making the total RSVP for the banquet 288.

New Business:

- 2014 Budget: Nick Georgiton presented the 2014 budget to the Parish Council. There was a budget meeting about a week ago that went very smoothly. The budget is similar to what it was last year. Ron Nichols made a motion to accept the 2014 budget. Pete Rodish seconded the motion.
 - John Sakelos asked if we try to estimate the budget high or low. Nick Georgiton answers that we try to hit right on. These are not stretch goals; this is what we need to do to make the church work financially in the next year. What we project is typically what happens.
 - Eugene Nicholas adds that we had a terrible Panegyri weekend, but because of the way we do the sponsorships, we came within \$600 of our profit goal. Last year, we were \$900 over our profit goal. Our profit is always an average. We do not know what our revenue will be, but we know what the expenses will be.
 - Peter Aamodt asks how we have reduced the expenses to make up for the fact that we have reduced our Stewardship budget approximately \$40,000. Eugene Nicholas responds that we will have fewer expenses next year because the loan has gone away.
 - The motion to accept the 2014 budget was passed unanimously. It will be sent to the General Assembly to be formally approved by them.
- Building repairs: Andy Stefanopoulos comments on the stalls in the men's restroom and how they need to be repaired.
- Organizational Structure: Ron Nichols comments that during the budget meeting they also talked about the organizational structure regarding the Parish Administrator and the Building Manager. Currently, the Building Manager is showed to report to the Parish Priest and Parish Council. Given that we have a Parish Administrator who handles the operations, it seems more appropriate for the Building Manager to report to the Parish Administrator. Ron Nichols makes a motion to modify the job description of the Building Manager so that he reports to the Parish Administrator on top of his or her other duties. Nick Sarakatsannis seconds the motion.
 - Also discussed was a work order form that documents that something needs to be done around the building. The work order form will go to Eugene Nicholas and Eugene Nicholas will provide it to the Building Manager. The work order should also reflect when the work should be completed. It will help the Building Manager know what work needs to be done and there is some pressure to have the date it needs to be completed by.
 - Andy Stefanopoulos asked who determines whether it is a valid work order? Do we need approval to do the work orders? Dr. Pete Kambelos answers that Eugene Nicholas will make the call. Eugene Nicholas clarifies that this is a type written form that should be submitted by a Parish Council member.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos comments that this makes logical sense. It does not make sense for the Building Manager to report to our Spiritual Leader and not our Parish Administrator.
 - The motion was passed unanimously.

- Friends of the Metropolis: Peter Aamodt makes a motion to support the Friends of the Metropolis for the same amount as last year (\$500). Eleni Haralamos seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- Panegyri Chairperson: Nick Georgiton raised the issue of Eugene Nicholas serving as Parish Administrator and Panegyri Chairperson. When the church hired Eugene as the Administrator 3.5 years ago, one of the stipulations he had was that he did not want to be the chairperson of the Panegyri while he served as Administrator of the church. We as a Council at that time, assured him that he would not be responsible for the festival and since that time he has been responsible for many items of the festival. Nick Georgiton makes a motion that if we do not have a co-chairperson for the Panegyri that we compensate Eugene \$5,000. If we force him to do work he did not want to do when he was hired, we should do our part and compensate him for his work. Andy Stefanopoulos seconds the motion.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos thinks this is a reasonable motion and we should be well educated to answer questions regarding this matter to Parishioners and we should welcome them to serve as co-chairs of the Panegyri. The \$5,000 amount is well deserved.
 - Father Bill comments that when we set the job description for Eugene's position, he could not serve on the Parish Council and he would not have any leadership for the Panegyri. The Parish Administrator is too demanding to also chair the Panegyri.
 - Peter Aamodt comments that the argument that works best is that his leadership role in the Panegyri is outside of his job description. Eugene does not want the extra money, he wants a chairperson.
 - John Sakelos asks about compensating Chris Jonson. Nick Georgiton answers that that is part of his job description.
 - The motion passes unanimously.
- Mother's Club Play Area: Pete Rodish reported that the Mother's Club is okay with getting rid of the play gym. They would rather us sell it instead of giving it away. It would be good if we could put a notice to our Parish and see if someone wants to purchase it. Pete Rodish will write something explaining why we are selling it and how much we want for it. The proceeds will go back to the Mother's Club.

Committee Reports:

- Car Raffle: Andy Stefanopoulos informed the Parish Council that we have 660 tickets sold. Last year we had 778 sold. Eugene Nicholas said that even know we only have 660 tickets sold, we are ahead of last year than we were at this time. God willing we will make \$35,000-36,000.
- Stewardship: Eugene Nicholas informed the Parish Council that Stewardship is about even with last year. Last year we missed our goal by \$22,000. We are on course to miss the Stewardship goal by \$80,000.
 - Father Bill comments that the issue is how are we going to move forward as a Parish Council to increase Stewardship?

- Andy Stefanopoulos admits that he has been lax on this issue and no one wants to help. He hopes the people in charge of this committee next year have better ideas.
- Peter Aamodt states that we need a brainstorming session separate from a Parish Council meeting to determine what we want the Parishioners to buy into.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos mentions that committee membership is not limited to Parish Council members. We should get help from people who are good with words and crafting messages when delivering our message for Stewardship.
- Eugene Nicholas encourages the Parish Council members to look at the ministry resources of www.goarch.gov.
- Peter Aamodt comments that we are at a critical juncture. He thinks with where we are right now with the special general assembly meeting and the maintenance issues, we need to articulate a vision where this Parish is going. This is more fundamental than just jump starting the Stewardship campaign.
- **Building Maintenance:** Nick Sarakatsannis informed the Parish Council that the big marble has been repaired. The brass plates are fixed. There are some carpeting issues that need to be addressed. We will get Ted McKay to look at the carpet to see if it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced.
- **Building Renovations:** Andy Stefanopoulos asks about the procedure for the renovating the gym. Do we go back to the General Assembly in November with our new ideas?
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos answered that the building committee should reinitiate the project because we have data where we have made proposals. We can also start from scratch with a new recommendation.
 - Father Bill comments that it is too soon to bring something before the General Assembly again.
 - Nick Sarakatsannis suggests that the Long Range Planning Committee should be included when the building committee meets.

Good of the Order:

- Nick Sarakatsannis: Great food. Appreciate everyone's thoughts.
- Pete Rodish: It takes a whole crowd with Stewardship. Do not beat yourself up Andy.
- John Sakelos: The Stewardship Committee is the most challenging and I have seen people who are harder working and more insightful than I am trying to accomplish things. I still think we need to reach out to others who are not contributing.
- Peter Aamodt: Please pray for a successful Clergy-Laity. We can shine. I am glad the Parish Council is supporting us with tickets to the banquet.
- Nick Georgiton: The food was really good. I also received a letter from a Parishioner who asked him to read it with respect to the General Assembly meeting. The letter was from Chris Chryssovergis expressing his thoughts on how things went during the meeting.
- Father Bill: Pass
- Father Paul: God Bless
- Andy Stefanopoulos: Eleni, great stuffed peppers. Thank you Pete Rodish for your comments and thank you to everyone who has helped with the Cadillac Raffle.

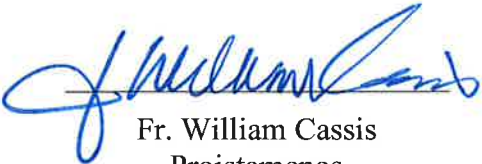
- Maria Kontopos: Thank you for the meal. I am sorry I will be unable to attend the Cadillac Raffle.
- Eleni Haralamos: Thank you to Andy and Eugene for their hard work on the car raffle.
- Alex Geromes: Likewise with the car raffle. Stewardship is also frustrating. I do not know how to get more people to donate.
- Ron Nichols: I recall the days when the church was having significant money difficulties and we identified what will go away if we do not pay our bills. People stepped up the plate when there was a need. There are always needs, just not identified needs. Thank you for the food.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos: I look forward to getting ideas from the Archdiocese regarding Stewardship. This situation is not unique to this Parish or to other charitable organizations. We are not giving up.
- Eugene Nicholas: Thank you for supporting Tyler's cookie dough sale.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Andy Stefanopoulos makes a motion to adjourn at 8:42pm. Ron Nichols seconds the motion.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary