



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes April 24, 2014

### ATTENDANCE

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

**Parish Council Members present:** Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Stacey Loukoumidis (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chrysosovergis, Frank Cook, Jim Gelis, David Greene, Maria Kontopos, Matthew Neuendorf, Peter Rodish, John Sakelos, Nick Sarakatsannis

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

**Absent:** Nick Sarakatsannis, Chris Jonson

### PRE-MEETING

**Opening Prayer:** Father William Cassis gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting.

**Call to Order:** Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:58

**President's Remarks:** Andy Stefanopoulos had no remarks.

### **Secretary's Report:**

- **Minutes:** John Sakelos moved to accept the March and April special minutes, Peter Rodish seconded, and motion was approved. Maria Kontopos moved to accepted February minutes, Peter Rodish seconded, and motion was approved.
- **Received Correspondence:** The Shepherd's Staff was passed around and we received a thank you letter from Eleni and family.

### **Clergy Remarks:**

- Father Bill Cassis:
  - Carol Cook sent a letter announcing her retirement.
- Father Irenaeus Cox had nothing to say.

### **Treasurer's Report: Peter Rodish**

- The March 2014 financial statements were presented by Eugene Nicholas for review. All Parish Council members received these statements by email.
- Stewardship and donations are both very strong, even removing the brass restoration project from the incoming funds; we have enough funds on hand to get through the

second week of May according to Eugene; outlier costs included the grounds maintenance, which was largely due to the snowy weather, and the misc expenses which were primarily Fr Irenaeus' moving expenses.

- Chris Chrysovergis moved to accept, Justin Bates seconded, motion passed.

#### **Parish Administrator's Report:**

- We are making very good progress on the brass restoration project; Parish Council members have been pledging money to the pangati restoration
- Chris Johson works 9-2 Mon, Wed, Sat.
- The parish building maintenance technician job description will be a part-time position likely 20-30 hours a week; pay would vary depending on qualifications of the applicant; we allocated \$26,000 to cover the pay for the employee; occasional custodial work was added to the job description after Carol announced her retirement. There is an upcoming meeting with Benson Company, who clean the Sunday School wing. We will be evaluating whether they will take over cleaning the rest of the building.
- Eugene got quotes for disability insurance, best option was around \$2400.00 annually for a long-term policy with built-in short-term coverage, which he suggests we either discuss under new business or table for a future meeting or send to the HR committee.
- Eugene emailed work order forms to the PC so we can email a filled-out work order form to Eugene that he can pass along to be dealt with by our new maintenance technician.
- Andy asked if anyone has sent Eugene any resumes yet, he's received one so far but expects to get one or two more.

#### **Old Business:**

- The brass restoration: work has begun; Fr. Bill is satisfied with it so far. Andy suggested Fr. Bill might make an announcement regarding the success of the project. Fr. Bill said the brass restoration should be about a 3-week long project.

#### **New Business:**

- Peter Aamodt suggested we do something to acknowledge all of Carol Cook's efforts on behalf of the parish. Andy said he would entertain a motion for a gift or sponsored coffee hour in her honor. Peter Rodish suggested Fr. Bill and Andy take Carol up to the front after a service to thank her publicly and present her with the gift. Fr Bill suggested we do this June 1<sup>st</sup>, assuming it works for her. Peter Rodish suggested the gift be a plaque and gift card. John Sakelos moved to present a plaque and a \$500.00 gift card. Peter Aamodt seconded. Peter Aamodt volunteered his wife to take care of getting the plaque and coffee hour. The motion was passed
- Panegyri: Frank said first meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup> after church. Eugene informed us some of the prices are going to be adjusted upward because of product increases. John Sakelos asked what would be needed to apply for a permit for something big like fireworks or a hot air balloon since it's the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John volunteered to look into pricing for fireworks. Eugene reminded him that he'd either need a sponsor or PC to alter the budget since it isn't in the current Panegyri budget. Peter Rodish brought up that Kenwood, Mariemont, and Esquire cinemas would advertise Panegyri at no cost, plus on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

they'd show The Big Fat Greek wedding at the Mariemont Theater. We would like to make it an interactive showing. Maria Kontopos inquired about a fountain square kickoff. Andy suggested Mayor Cranley might be able to help us with this. Perhaps have the Greek dancers (any day that week would work, but best that Thursday) perform. Justin Bates volunteered to check with the dancers regarding their availability

- Regarding the new hire process Chris Chryssovergis moved that we not consider any parishioners for any lay position within the parish; Stacey seconded. Maria Kontopos suggested we speak with Charles Stefan regarding liability of that pre-requisite. We motioned to table the discussion until we hear back from the lawyer. Chris Chryssovergis moved that we suggest the job description as presented, Frank Cook seconded, the motion passed. Eugene is currently using Craig Sansone as an independent contractor. Fr. Bill said the PC needs to have the PC approve Eugene's decision and put it in the record. Peter Aamodt moved that we contract Craig Sansone for maintenance services with terms to be determined, Frank Cook seconded, the motion passed.
- Stacey Loukoumidis brought up that someone approached her suggesting that it would be nice for a fridge to be open during dance practice.
- Andy inquired if everyone knew what they were going to be doing for Panegyri.
- The LED problem with flickering of the lights is because we are using the wrong LED lights. So we will be getting information about what bulbs we should be using.

### **Committees**

- Stewardship: Peter Aamodt said that after consulting with Fr Bill conducting a calling campaign this year would not be tenable, and thanked everyone for helping to keep stewardship before the congregation despite this. We are \$38,000 above last year, with 30 additional stewards from last month to this month, and our percentage of goal pledged is at 63%; we have had a decline in average pledge amount since last month, but number of stewards is up; we are seeing a lot of positive indicators for stewardship. (See attached file)
- Building Committee: reviewing minutes, so report isn't quite ready, but starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> they were planning to find qualified people to do the inspection. It is possible that there might have been a prior report, so they're trying to find it. They've been discussing how to establish and protect a building fund; they are planning to contact some consultants and arrange a time for inspections and walkthroughs to get the feasibility study done. John Sakelos asked Eugene to explain again the emergency repair fund. Eugene explained we raised the price of candles from \$7 to \$10. The extra \$3 is supposed to go into that fund. We have not been putting the money into that account because of the roof costs. Once we are out of crisis mode we will begin to put those funds in.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Peter Aamodt moved to adjourn and Matthew Neuendorf seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:19.

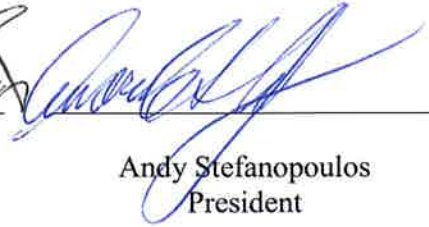
**Closing prayer:** Father Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



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Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos



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Andy Stefanopoulos  
President



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Stacey Loukoumidis  
Secretary