



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 21, 2014

### ATTENDANCE

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

**Parish Council Members present:** Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Stacey Loukoumidis (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Jim Gelis, Maria Moyer, Matthew Neuendorf, Peter Rodish, Nick Sarakatsannis

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

**Absent:** Frank Cook, David Greene, John Sakelos, 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 7:03.

**President's Remarks:** Andy Stefanopoulos spoke about the upcoming Cadillac Reverse Raffle and the need for Parish Council participation to make it a real success.

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

- Minutes: Maria Moyer moved to accept the June minutes, Chris Chryssovergis seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Received Correspondence: Received the Shepherd's Staff, as well as thank-you letters from scholarship recipients Alexa Chryssovergis, Dimitri Loukoumidis, and Panagiotopoulos.

### **Clergy Remarks:**

Father Bill Cassis:

- The Ecclesiastical New Year is coming up, so fall will be a busy time.
- GOYA has been moving along very well, with lots of parental involvement and some very proactive youth.
- Sunday scheduling is becoming more common, which can cause some sacramental conflicts with clergy, but it does help to boost attendance.
- The Orthodox Christian Network is working to raise twenty million dollars; they want local parishes to host fundraiser/presentation dinners that would need either parish council members or parishioner volunteers to serve as hosts and coordinators.

Father Irenaeus Cox:

- GOYA has been very impressive with its enthusiasm and its organization.

**Treasurer's Report: Eugene Nicholas**

- The overall financial situation is doing well, though the endowment briefly dipped during July's weak market. It has since rebounded, and the line of credit is now paid off.
- Jim Gelis moved to accept the report, Nick Sarakatsannis seconded, and the motion passed.

**Parish Administrator's Report:**

- We got a good response to Fr. Bill's pleas for ministry volunteers. The book store is well staffed, and we gained four volunteers for the food pantry.
- The Benson Company transition has gone well so far.
- The Solea and the Narthex have been stripped and sealed, and we plan to run the new high speed buffer every two weeks.
- For the Panegyri, gross sales are finalized and estimated profit should be close to the final number; regardless of the exact figures, this was our second best Panegyri ever.
- Panegyri income has been exhausted, and car raffle money is currently helping to keep our finances in shape. We've also had unprecedented memorial donations, along with tight expense control.
- The toddler room is furnished and should be ready very soon.

**Old Business:**

- Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Panegyri; it was through the efforts of all our volunteers that it was such a successful year.

**New Business:**

- We had a good start this year with the Panegyri, but the car raffle is the next big project. We've had a good outlook for ticket sales from the distributed packets, but Andy would like to grow the campaign to involve calling people about the raffle. Anyone who wants will be mailed a ticket along with a stamped envelope.
- It was proposed that we have some kind of in-church recognition of Panegyri committee chairs and those who assisted them, perhaps in October.
- It was also proposed that the parish recognize Beth for her work in the book store.
- We interviewed a potential candidate for the second clergy position. Fr. Bill thinks he's worthy. Fr. Larry and all of the seminary contacts with whom Fr. Bill spoke recommended him. All the metropolitan needs is for us to give him the word. Peter Aamodt moved to accept William Redmon with pay consistent with the minimum requirements of the archdiocese, Justin Bates seconded, and the motion passed.

**Committees**

- Stewardship: 2013 and 2014 are starting to look very similar. Stewardship commitments are up, but stewardship monies are down. The number of families on the stewardship rolls is 17 lower than where we were last year. Quarterly statements help keep people aware of their personal stewardship progress. 2015 pledge cards will be going out next month. Peter Aamodt has assembled a stewardship committee, which has met several times. The committee wants to get materials out by September. It would also like to host a luncheon with a speaker. Lack of broadly representative parish membership in the committee is a concern, and it would be helpful to get non-council parishioners onto the committee.

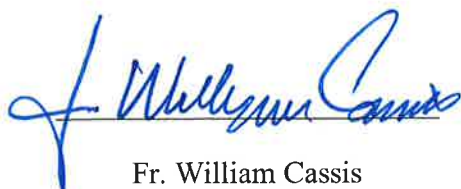
- Youth stewardship is a goal for the committee. It would be good to establish habits of giving, as well as sowing the seeds for youth to become stewards in their own right as they become adults.
- The committee is considering requiring stewardship pledges. Giving is integral to worship, with the biblical custom being to give even before entering the church, and pledging is important to budget management. It would also be helpful to shift the parish mindset away from asset-based budgets to needs-based budgets that focus on the ministries the parish wishes to accomplish.
- Fr. Bill recommended that a future parish council address the question of requiring a stewardship pledge. Chris Chrysovergis suggested that we place the issue on the general assembly agenda, with the intent to change the parish by-laws to require a pledge in order to qualify as a steward.
- The committee also recommends that we do two Stewardship Sundays. Those could involve in-church presentations as well as row-by-row handing out of pledge forms, as well as an after-church luncheon or dinner with a speaker. Fr. Bill also suggested that the forms be removed from the tri-fold and made stand-alone on heavy card stock.
- The committee recommended that the parish adopt both mission and vision statements, and provided drafts for both, adapted from GOARCH materials. Peter Aamodt moved to accept the drafts as provisional mission and vision statements, Stacey Loukoumidis seconded, and the motion passed.
- Building Committee: Jim Gelis had a preliminary report, but not a full feasibility study yet. He has rough notes that he will assemble for a full report soon. Currently the Multipurpose room will look like a gym, with new colors, a new floor and ceiling, as well as new paint, trim, doors, etc. Lighting will transition to LED, which will be more efficient, brighter, and dimmable. We can probably get rebates on many of the lighting upgrades. We also need an integral sound system, since our current one is wired incorrectly and is non-functional. We could expand the project to include retractable projectors and screens as well.
- The committee plans to get price estimates, both for minimum recommendations as well as for several iterations of more ambitious packages.

### ADJOURNMENT

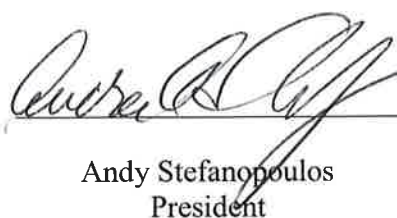
**Call to adjourn:** Peter Rodish moved to adjourn, Maria Moyer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:02.

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

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos  
President



Stacey Loukoumidis  
Secretary