



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 17, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. William Redmon.

Members present: Jim Gelis (Presiding), Karen Aamodt (Recording), Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, David Greene, Stacey Loukoumidis, Jessica Mavridoglou, Michael Mavridoglou, Matthew Neuendorf, Nektarios Pappasavvas, Peter Rodish and Nick Sarakatsannis.

Members absent: Christine Masella.

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas.

PRE-MEETING

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

MEETING

Call to order: Jim Gelis called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

President's remarks: Jim Gelis thanked everyone for a good year and said that serving as President was both rewarding and humbling; we will have a motion tonight following the building committee report; the Christmas liturgical schedule will require discussion and sign-ups for Narthex duty.

Secretary's report:

- Minutes: the minutes of the November 19, 2015, meeting were previously distributed by email; one correction was offered; Jessica moved to accept as amended, Justin seconded and the motion passed.
- Correspondence: The Shepherd's Staff from the Office of the Metropolitan.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill Cassis stated that this has been a truly productive year with much accomplished. He was in New Jersey this past Sunday to attend and participate in the Ordination to the Diaconate of George Lewis Parsenios by Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. This coming Sunday will be the longest Sunday of the year due to the Greek School Kalanda and the Sunday Church School Christmas programs. The Christmas schedule will be:

Christmas Eve morning will be Vespers Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM; Christmas Eve evening will be Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM; and Christmas Day will celebrate Matins at 8:30 AM and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM.

- Fr. William Redmon reported on
 - HOPE/JOY; they discussed the Nativity icon, enjoyed a movie night watching A Charlie Brown Christmas; and in January they hope to begin ministry team Mondays.
 - GOYA; they enjoyed a Christmas party with caroling; business has been tabled until January; registration for the St. Nicholas summer camp retreat will begin in January; dates for the 2016 Vacation Church School will be announced soon and the theme will be Heroes of the Bible. The 2016 GOYA basketball season has begun and the girls will practice on Wednesdays while the boys will practice on Mondays. The Dayton tournament is coming up over the second weekend in February and we should have enough chaperones. Fr. William confirmed that his housing allowance is \$14,706.00.

Treasurer's report:

- While the endowment goes up and comes down, it was at \$1,011,000.00. Our line of credit has been steady or growing from \$22,000.00 in November; our per capita payment to the Archdiocese will increase from \$92,000.00 to \$98,000.00 beginning in January, this is an increase of \$500.00 per month. We have had two months in a row with net an operating loss, this is not sustainable, and we currently stand at \$35,000.00 net loss. Nick moved to accept the report, Nektarios seconded and the motion passed.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas reminded us that the outreach deadline for food donations is tomorrow. The ministry team will need help on Saturday morning to place all the food items on tables by category.
- Craig has been in his new position for two weeks and it has been great; he will have Mondays and Thursdays off, but he will still be present for council meetings. Eugene informed us that we have taken out health insurance for Craig via the obamacare site at a good rate and it will begin in January.
- The Church office will be closed on December 28, 2015. 277 families supported the community Christmas card effort and the cards have been mailed.
- Hosting coffee hour after Liturgy will increase to \$50.

Old Business:

- The Building and Grounds Renovation Project: Alex Christoforides received two bids at 5:00 PM on December 14, 2015. Only two contractors submitted bids; each was significantly over our initial estimates; our budget originally was \$500,000.00 with our borrowing authorization from the community at \$350,000.00. The best bid was at \$711,000.00; the committee has several options: first, to accept the best qualified bid and start construction in January; second, redesign and rebid; third, accept the best qualified

bid and negotiate a revised project estimate; or fourth, reject all bids and postpone indefinitely. The committee voted for the third option.

- Nick moved to authorize the committee to enter into negotiations with the potential contractor to value engineer the project for a reduction in the construction price; the committee would then submit the revised price and contract to the parish council in January 2016 for approval; to delay construction until July 2016 to give the contractor time to complete the work; to be authorized to develop and implement a fundraising campaign between now and the start of construction. Nektarios seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mortgage: we received three proposals; Northside Bank reduced their closing costs to \$800.00. With the numbers supporting Northside Bank's offer to be the superior offer; we will delay the loan until the renovation project can move forward.

New Business:

- Facebook. The Parish needs a Facebook page. Michael will lead a team to create a proposal for a social media policy.
- Housing Allowances. Justin moved to submit Fr. Bill's housing allowance at \$29,000.00 and Fr. William's at \$14,706.00. David seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee reports:

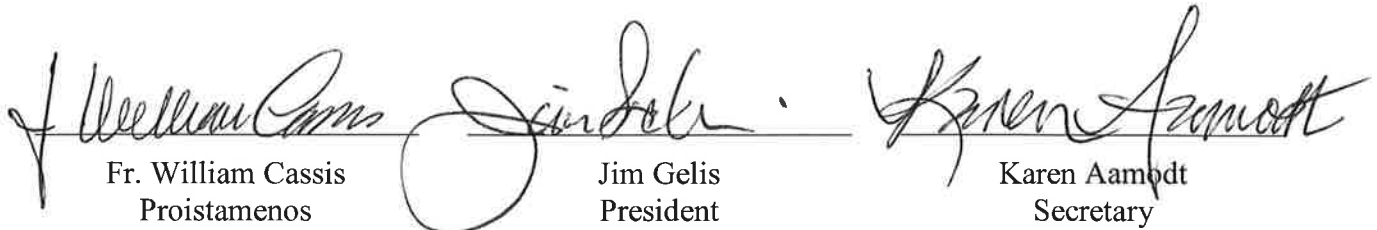
- Stewardship: Justin provided a color-coded calendar of Church liturgical Fasts and Feasts and other important dates and seasons for stewardship planning. The committee has met and has suggestions for stewardship events, social media, quarterly statements, seminars, personal testimonials, house blessings, a Name Tag Day and more.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 9:21 PM.

Closing prayer: Fr. William Redmon offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,


Fr. William Cassis Jim Gelis Karen Aamodt
Proistamenos President Secretary