



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 18, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis and Fr. William Redmon.

Members present: Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, James Gelis, David Greene, George Haralamos, Stacey Loukoumidis, Christine Masella, Matthew Neuendorf, Peter Rodish, Karen Aamodt and Jessica Mavridoglou

Members absent: Nektarios Papasavvas,

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: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President's remarks: Nick read a letter from Metropolitan Nicholas accepting Fr. Bill's retirement as of January 1st, 2017. He discussed the importance of arriving to the Divine Liturgy on time and to lead by example, especially if that Sunday one is serving as captain. Nick stated if Parish Council members are able to attend funerals to assist this is greatly appreciated.

Secretary's report: The meeting minutes from the December meeting were presented as amended and were moved to be approved by Stacey Loukoumidis and the motion was seconded by David Greene. The meeting minutes from January were presented as amended and were moved to be approved by Stacey Loukoumidis and the motion was seconded by David Greene. The motion passed for both sets of minutes. Christine Masella presented The Shepherd Staff newsletter, which had an article by Fr. William.

Clergy remarks:

Fr. Bill: Pastorally, we are in a funeral cycle. If any Parish Council members are available, Chris Beltsos's funeral is Monday February 22nd and will be very well attended it will help everything run more smoothly for Parish Council members to attend. Fr. Bill thanked Fr. William for doing

such a great job helping to cover hospital visits and other duties during the very busy last several weeks.

Fr. William: JOY/HOPE continues to grow and welcomed a new family at the February meeting. Anna Ioannides wrote the latest article in the whisper issue which will be going out to families soon. GOYA attended the Dayton basketball tournament and the boys' b-team placed third. Gus Stroplos has stepped forward as GOYA basketball chair for next year. Taverna night will be taking place the evening of February 27th and GOYA will be selling tickets this Sunday February 21st and at the door for \$15. The Oratorical Festival preparations have begun. Dena Mathes has received the manual and distributed tasks to religious education team members. Judges are being arranged. Father has not heard back from the Miami OCF, but UC and Xavier students have expressed interest in forming an OCF. Vacation church school planning has begun. Stephanie Bottomley will return as chair and we have one instructor chosen, others will be lined up soon and materials are ready.

Treasurer's report: Justin Bates presented the Treasurer's report. The endowment fund is down around \$971,000 due to unexpected market trends. Eugene has had to tap the line of credit but only to \$5,000 since the end of the year, which is very low for this time of year. The Capital Improvement Fund for the renovation project will begin appearing on next month's balance sheet report, and is currently at \$3,500. Peter Rodish moved to accept report; David Greene seconded. Motion passed.

Parish Administrator's report:

Eugene reported that the plumbing project is almost done. A sleeve between pipes still needs to be inserted, but everything is functioning properly. We have made a payment and have enough in the bank to pay for the rest. Hopefully the job will be under \$15,000. The Narthex doors banging noise is being investigated and estimates are being made. Craig has been very busy, working hard and has a great attitude. Financially, we are doing very well, especially given the time of year, all our bills for the month are paid now and we have \$38,000 and some change in the bank, which means even after paying for the plumbing we can cover the first couple weeks in March. Panegyri planning is underway. The first Panegyri sponsorship letter will be delayed by a few weeks or so to accommodate the building committee project letter, all Panegyri chairs are filled now except parking.

Old Business:

Endowment rules and regulations: The changes made by the endowment committee were presented. Matthew Neuendorf moved to add the word "all" to sentence 2 of section 10 between the words "of" and "its" and to add the word "all" to sentence 3 of section 10 between the words "of" and "its" and to approve the document as amended and to present it to the General Assembly. Stacey Loukoumidis seconded. The motion passed.

Community hall renovation: Jim Gelis reported. They had a meeting on February 11th. The members' tasks were discussed and assigned. Jim presented a letter that was drafted for review by Metropolitan Nicholas and his council for approval for the renovation. It requires signatures and some minor changes prior to being sent. The Building committee will give a

presentation in Church at end of service on February 28th. They will have pledge cards, including online pledge solutions and inserts for the bulletins. There will be an option to pledge an amount over time instead of a lump sum with a 5-year timeframe. They are hoping to have all the pledges in by the end of March.

New Business: No new business reported at this time.

Committee Reports:

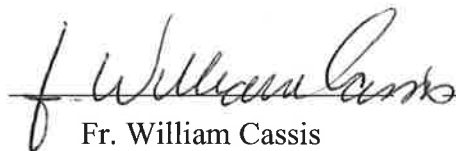
- **Stewardship:** Pledges and the amount given are up, we are trending well, but increases continue to be necessary. We will be receiving testimonials from parish members and organizations about what stewardship means to them for bulletin inserts. On February 28th, Fellowship Sunday will take place and everyone will be offered name tags to be worn all day.
- **Long-range planning:** Five main topics were discussed. First, it would be nice if we could long-term try to finish the ceiling iconography circa 2018-2021. Secondly, will be finding a second priest and hopefully in 2017 proposing that the General Assembly will change the lay assistant position to a third priest. Thirdly, would be establishment of a social ministry committee and expanding our Outreach Ministries perhaps in cooperation with local organizations. Fourth, looking at celebrating our 110th anniversary, September 1, 2017. Lastly, will be taking a Parish survey between April 10-23rd prior to Palm Sunday.
- **Special Events:** Karen Aamodt discussed that the Agape Luncheon planning has begun and she is recruiting volunteers. Any ideas are welcomed.
- **Endowment committee:** Plans to try to begin meeting quarterly
- **Building Committee:** Discussed in old business

ADJOURNMENT

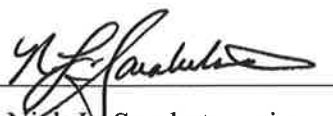
Call to adjourn: Jim Gelis moved to adjourn.

Closing prayer: Fr. William offered the closing prayer at 8:49 pm

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Christine Masella
Recording Secretary