



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 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, Nektarios Papasavvas, and Peter Rodish

**Members absent:** Karen Aamodt and Jessica Mavridoglou

**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 7:04 p.m.

**President's remarks:** Nick thanked everyone for supporting him as the President for the upcoming year. He commented that a prior president preferred that the council members wear badges even when off duty and he would like to continue this practice.

**Secretary's report:** The meeting minutes from the December meeting were deferred to be reviewed prior to the February meeting. There was one correspondence from Chris Johnson thanking the Parish Council for his retirement celebration.

### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Bill: No remarks made at this time.
- Fr. William: The GOYA Lexington Winter retreat went well and two GOYA members have expressed interest in attending summer camp. GOYA members will be attending the Dayton Basketball Tournament the weekend of February 14<sup>th</sup>. GOYA will be hosting Taverna night again this year on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Fr. William and GOYA are currently

working on compiling a master email list. Fr. William continues to be in touch with OCF and is hoping to meet with the officers at their next meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** Justin Bates presented the Treasurer's report. The Endowment Fund dropped below a million dollars again in December largely due to market trends. Eugene Nicholas had to tap the line of credit to pay the bills. The new line of credit total is \$37,000. Stewardship for 2015 was down compared to the previous year by around \$12,000. Despite having an increased stewardship month in December, we still had negative cashflow. This is an unfortunate circumstance that reinforces our continued reliance on Panegyri and that we are not yet fully funding operating expenses through stewardship. Jim Gelis moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, David Greene seconded. Motion passed.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

Parish Administrator, Eugene Nicholas reported that plumbing repairs are underway and the company is still in the process of locating all the pipe branches. The company was changed from Neyer to Gardner. The cost will be lower than our original quote of \$18,500 from Neyer plumbing since we will be working with the pipe vendor directly. Sanctuary roof leak at north side is not a plumbing issue, but the most likely culprit is some kind of gap between rubber and copper on the roof, but on the south side they haven't been able to research as fully due to weather. Holland Roofing is bringing in a metal expert to evaluate the source. The brass in the Narthex and Sanctuary was cleaned this week, \$1,200 to maintain. Eugene asks that we continue to dust down the stands and to use plastic scrapers to remove wax. Eugene has been taking hall rental calls this last month, only one major rental coming up so far is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will need to be mindful of the community hall renovation scheduling.

Currently our line of credit is \$37,000. Our operational expenses for 2015 came in under budget, if we had met our stewardship goal we would have been able to avoid borrowing for the end-of-year entirely. Stewardship, pledging is up which is a promising sign, and pledge amount per family is up. Panegyri planning is underway and radio advertising has been booked. Kris Zagorianos has volunteered to replace Mike Bikas as dance chair. The participation fee for dancers is lower for stewards in good standing than for non-members. The fee must be paid in full prior to the first practice. Currently a new booth is being developed for the St. Nicholas Shrine and it may be in the Car Raffle booth spot.

**Old Business:** Jim Gelis discussed the community hall renovation project and the construction has been postponed until July. Bids came in high for the project so last month Parish Council moved to issue the building committee with three instructions (see prior minutes). The price has been negotiated down to \$551,000, including light fixtures; the PA system will include two screens at the stage and a distributed speaker system, estimated at \$53,000; \$40,000 contingency recommended to handle unforeseen items, including potential fees and paperwork costs; total over all would be \$644,000. If we do not tap the contingency, we come in at \$604,000. Compared to original bids, this is over \$110,000 reduced cost. The General assembly approved a mortgage at \$350,000, so we need to raise around \$294,000 by this summer. Jim Gelis moved that we accept the revised bid of \$551,073 from Cousin Construction, to accept a \$53,000

allowance for audio-visual, and to allocate a \$40,000 contingency, for a total of \$644,073. Matt Neuendorf seconded. The motion passed.

**New Business:** Father Bill's 40<sup>th</sup> celebration to the Priesthood will be taking place on Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Metropolitan NICHOLAS will be formally invited to join us for celebrating.

**Committee Reports:**

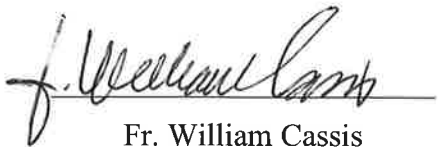
- **Stewardship:** Pledges are up to \$262,919 and are up from last year. There was discussion of quarterly vs. monthly reminders for parishioners to follow their progress. Nektarios Papasavvas will invite someone to come to our monthly Parish Council dinner to talk about stewardship practices.
- **Special Events:** Clergy laity congress will be taking place in Nashville this year and information will be out in March. It will be hosted by the Archdiocese vs. the Metropolis
- **Building Committee:** Discussed in old business

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Jim Gelis moved to adjourn at 8:55p.m.

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

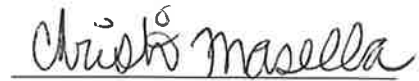
Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis  
President



Christine Masella  
Recording Secretary