



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

Members present: Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Eli Cassis, Buzzy Gaz, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Kim Lambrinides, Gus Lazares, Ron Nichols, Sylvia Rombis, Jay Williams

Members absent: Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Poneris

Member-elect present: Tom Tsiominas

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

Call to order: Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the Service of Prayer for the Opening of the Parish Council.

President's remarks:

- Andy Stefanopoulos
 - This will be my final Parish Council meeting and the last that I will preside over. We have had a wonderful tenure and have accomplished many things. I remember past Councils that did great things, from moving our Parish to renovating our hall, and now we have received funds that will help us to finish our Church and make it even more beautiful.
 - Thank you everyone, but especially Father Mark and Eugene Nicholas.

Secretary's report:

- Eli Cassis moved to accept the November minutes as distributed online, Ron Nichols seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included a card and personal note of thanks from Deacon Nick.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - I wish to express my deepest and most sincere appreciation to the Parish Council for their dedication, including their patience leading to the ordination of Deacon Nick. Thank you to the Council and to Philoptochos for the wonderful ordination luncheon. Thank you all for your support to Deacon Nick and Diakonissa Ivey, and for hosting the ordination.
 - On the day before Thanksgiving we hosted 150 people. Thanks to everyone who came and volunteered. It was close to 100 volunteers throughout the week, and we are grateful to everyone who helped in any aspect from phone calls to meal preparation to cleanup. Leftover meals were taken to the Joseph House.

- Tomorrow from 9 am to 2 pm, we will be distributing the Christmas outreach, with over 300 meal packages prepared.
- The annual Christmas concert took place on December 8. It was outstanding. We are blessed with people who have great talent both in the choir and in the person of the choir director. Ariadne is a blessing to our whole Parish.
- For Vespers on the 5th and St. Nicholas Day on the 6th we were blessed with the presence of brother clergy and our newly minted deacon. We appreciate all who attended.
- The Nativity Feast is fast approaching. Vespers will begin at 6 pm. It will be a Vesperal Divine Liturgy. We will need all hands on deck from the Council. Wednesday Matins begins at 8 am.
- Fr. Mark will be away from December 26 to January 2 and Fr. Andrew Walsh will substitute on Sunday, December 29. There will be no services on January 1 due to Fr. Mark's absence.
- The fore-feast of Theophany will be January 5, which will be a special Sunday for Sunday Church School.
- We have received the election ratification from His Eminence, so on January 5 following Divine Liturgy, the 2020 Council members will offer their affirmation of office and then elect officers.
- The Youth Safety process is continuing. Evonne Marinakis has been having issues accessing the Presidium site. Deacon Nick spoke with the Metropolis and the Archdiocese has pushed the deadline for implementation back by a month as a consequence.
- Deacon Nick
 - Thank you all for everything, from the meal to the hospitality. Deacon Nick's family was impressed by how warm this community is.
 - We will host a regional Lenten retreat with Dayton and Carmel, and possibly also Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, Fort Wayne, and Lexington. We have an agreement with Camp Kern. It will be all weekend long, with barracks-style accommodations and a low-ropes course as an icebreaker. This is the first of several "innovations in ministry" that Deacon Nick hopes to hold during the year. Hopefully, the Parish Council will make a motion to use Endowment funds to cover all costs aside from the nominal \$30 individual fee to show that each attendee is serious. The initial cost is \$1,400, and if it goes well then these costs can be included in future budgets.
 - The GOYA trip to Boston was moved to November of next year and the Young Adult conference is targeted for October. GOYA had a good Nativity retreat and are prepping for the basketball tournament in February. HOPE/JOY is now a solid core that is slowly expanding.
 - The Youth Protection training push for parents to sign up is not just about safety for chaperoning, but also to keep eyes open for abuse elsewhere in the kids' lives, which is not just about physical safety but also spiritual health.

Treasurer's report:

- Kim Lambrinides
 - Our North Side balance is at \$130,100. The Capital Improvement fund is at \$1,000 and the Endowment is at \$1,385,240.
 - From this month to last, our Stewardship donations are down about \$20,000.
 - Our contract repair and maintenance expense spiked due to the cleaning, for a monthly loss recorded at \$39,449, but year to date we're still ahead by \$26,217. Eugene anticipates

ending the year at a surplus around \$15,000. We are on an excellent trend of financial stability. Even though our Stewardship is unlikely to hit \$500,000, our Stewardship is still on track for a record year. The funds for the iconography have been received and are in a money market fund, currently value is \$2,053,420.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building
 - The Narthex ceiling is now clean. Pastrimas Painting came in and discussed cleaning and painting the choir stairwell in January.
 - Christmas Outreach
 - Distribution is tomorrow. We have 300 ready packages, and distribution is moving from the front of the Church to the back of the Bishop's Walk due to a funeral. Eugene can always use more volunteers. Distribution will be from 9 am to 2 pm.
 - Stewardship Pledges
 - Turn in your 2020 pledge if you haven't already. The Stewardship list goes out with the January Voice tomorrow.
 - Calendars
 - The 2020 Calendars came in. Take one.

Unfinished Business:

- Building Preservation
 - We have two proposals, from ZSR and from Hicon. We spoke with a third company but they wanted us to enlist an engineering company. Buzzy recommends that we go with Hicon for the project at \$69,995 rather than ZSR at \$62,950.
 - Matthew Neuendorf moved to go with Hicon for the restoration project. Eli Cassis seconded. Matthew Neuendorf amended the motion to go with Hicon for the restoration project with an amount not to exceed \$70,000. Eli Cassis seconded. The motion passed

New Business:

- GOYA Lenten Retreat at Camp Kern
 - Matthew Neuendorf moved to take \$1,374 from the 2019 Endowment Dispersal to cover the deposit for the GOYA Lenten Retreat at Camp Kern. Buzzy Gaz seconded. The Motion Passed.
- 2020 Housing Allowance
 - Every year the IRS requires that we designate funds for a parsonage expense, which the Parish Council must approve for the upcoming year. Fr. Mark requires \$35,000 and Deacon Nick requires \$18,000.
 - Eli Cassis moved that we approve \$35,000 as a housing allowance for Father Mark and \$18,000 for Deacon Nick in 2020. Gus Lazares. seconded. The motion passed.
- Greeter Ministry
 - Ron Nichols will be departing for Florida in a few months and recommends that the Parish Council designate a member to continue and establish continuity of leadership for the greeter program. Duties include ongoing training of new volunteers as well as coordination and scheduling for the volunteers.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Year-to-date commitments are up around \$39,000 from this time last year. Received year to date is up \$22,000 from last year. We're doing pretty well and are on pace to surpass our record year.
 - We are planning to have a committee meeting in January.
 - We are a little ahead on 2020 commitments compared to the same time last year.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Ron Nichols moved to adjourn, Eli Cassis seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:53 PM.

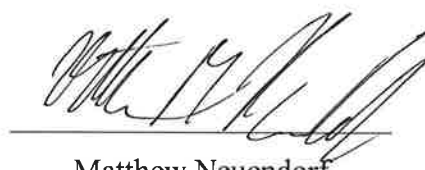
Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary