



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 16, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll.

Members present: Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Eli Cassis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Gus Koutsogiannis, Kim Lambrinides, Ron Nichols, Sylvia Rombis.

Members absent: Andy Stefanopoulos, Buzzy Gaz, Gus Poneris, Jay Williams.

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Nick Tzetzis.

MEETING

Call to order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

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

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares:
 - It is good to see everyone here.
 - We have a new Archbishop.
 - We will discuss the Givelify app later.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy moved to accept the April minutes as distributed online, Ron seconded, the motion passed.
- We received a thank-you card from Peter Maris for his scholarship.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - Thanks to everyone who helped out last weekend.
 - We have a new archbishop, Elpidophoros, a native of Turkey with an extensive scholarly background. His enthronement will be on June 22 in New York City. He is eager to meet his flock and to get started.

- The Archdiocese has a plan for camps and other youth activities for implementing a Youth Safety Program. For now it is being implemented for individual parishes. We expect to hear more, likely by September 1, but we do not have a clear picture of what it will entail. Likely, everyone who participates in a youth ministry of any kind, including volunteers and chaperones, must have a background check through an approved vendor. We will need people to help with compliance once it goes live.
- Next Sunday, the last day of Sunday Church School for the year, will be a special Sunday. We will also be honoring Janice Kellaris with a plaque, a check, flowers, and a cake.
- Father Mark has spoken with a couple of possible candidate for the open choir director position. At this time, we have not found a replacement candidate. The permanent position will remain vacant until we find a new director. Father is making arrange with a few possible temporary candidates in the meantime.
- Father Mark will be absent the week of June 17, so we will reschedule our June meeting for Thursday, June 13.
- One of the things that has been discussed by the strategic planning committee and the three pillars is a teaching Divine Liturgy. Father will be doing a series of homilies over the summer at various points in the service, explaining a section of the Divine Liturgy each week.

Pastoral Assistant remarks:

- Mr. Nick
 - The new archbishop does not mean anything immediate regarding ordinations.
 - The 2020 calendar is packed already.
 - Mr. Nick and Ivey will be taking their vacation in September rather than in July.
 - Vacation Church School is coming up in July. It will need some revamping in the future.
 - Registration for the St. Nicholas summer camp is open and we already have several councilors signed up.
 - Crossroads has four new slots open.
 - The Metropolis will be launching a dance festival.
 - The altar boys served with dedication during Holy Week.

Treasurer's report:

- Kim Lambrinides
 - Our checking balance is currently \$66,500, which is the lowest balance in quite a while. Our other accounts, including the Endowment Fund, are also down. The Capital Improvement fund is relatively flat as we are paying down the principal of the loan.

- We are running a \$37,778 deficit for the year, which means that we are spending much of the carry-over balance from last year. Panegyri expenses are low because sponsorships have largely offset them.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - The copper at the Narthex exterior entrance is opened up and the plumbing exposed, so we are on the way to fixing our drain problem. The wood is rotten and the copper above is cracked, meaning we will have more repairs to do, but the pipes are the first step.
 - Roof repairs are progressing but we must first replace the rubber.
 - We had a problem with an HVAC unit but it has been repaired.
 - We passed some inspections but we have more yet coming up.
 - We received our Knox box for the Fire Department to access our building.
 - All the Panegyri chairs are filled, but the apprenticeships are not yet. The cost to bring in additional workers is higher than budgeted, but Eugene will try to rework the numbers. Volunteers would help significantly. Even 20 people would be enough to avoid having to hire anyone.

Unfinished Business:

- Givelify.
 - Gus Lazares
 - Information was emailed to Parish Council members. We ran a limited test and everything worked smoothly. People seem eager for the alternative payment method.
 - The next big step will be the official rollout. We will probably have a booth at coffee hour to help with app setup as well as a sign at the candle stand. There are preset donation options, to which we might consider adding a \$5.00 option. Fees hit smaller donations quite hard, so anything below that value is prohibitive.
 - Matthew moved to implement Givelify within the Parish, Peggy seconded. Eli asked about reporting and Eugene said that we get everything that we need. The motion passed.

New Business:

- There was no New Business.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Thank you very much for the help with Name Tag Sunday. Stewardship Appreciation Sunday was a success. Commitments are up over last year, while receipts are lagging by about \$20,000 from this time last year. We sent an email about it. Father Mark inserted an item in the Voice about giving during the summer months.

Committee Reports:

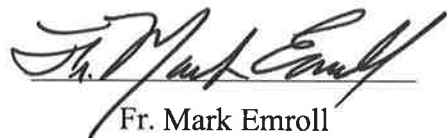
- Strategic Planning.
 - Mr. Nick
 - We had a meeting, with the focus on illuminating the cooperation of the different ministries of the parish and how parishioners can participate in as much as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Peggy moved to adjourn, Ron seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:09 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
Vice President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary