



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll

Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Nick Tzetzis (absent)

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

Members absent: Jay Williams

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

Call to order: Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:53 PM.

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

President's remarks:

- Andy Stefanopoulos:
 - Everything seems to be going fine. The youth are back in Sunday Church School and our Greek School has begun a new year. We are happy to have found a new Choir Director, Ariadne Antipa, and our choir sounds very good.

Secretary's report:

- Ron Nichols moved to accept the August minutes as distributed online, Buzzy Gaz seconded, the motion passed.
- We received a flyer for Taverna Night: October 12 from 7 to 11 PM.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - We have begun the new liturgical year. Father will distribute the liturgical calendar to the Parish Council.
 - Sunday Church School and Greek School have begun with a blessing of the waters on the 8th.
 - The Youth Safety process will begin with a general meeting for all youth staff and volunteers, likely in October. It will outline the responsibilities of all participants: screening, training, and certification. The background checks will be shifted to the archdiocese' provided vendor. Screening includes an online course through Armatus. After

the initial process it will need to be repeated annually, but the background checks will be good for three years. More details will be available later.

- The Fall General Assembly is October 13. Parish Council members need to be present and to sit together at the front of the assembly.
- This coming Sunday, September 22, is Stewardship Sunday. In addition, the St. Sophia Mothers' Club will be offering a blessing of the five loaves in honor of their patron saint. For Stewardship Sunday, we ask that everyone bring their commitment envelopes forward to be blessed, starting with those returned through the mail and from Parish Council member. This will take place after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
- Fr. Mark plans to be absent from October 23 to 29, November 28 to 30, and December 26 to January 2. The October and December absences will include Sundays, so he will request substitute clergy for those days.
- The Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference in Troy is approaching. Fr. Mark along with Gus Stroplos and Justin Bates will be representing our Parish.

Pastoral Assistant remarks:

- Mr. Nick
 - Submitted a written report.
 - Our HOPE & JOY are off to a relatively slow start this year, but I think it's because of an overall positive trend. We have new ministry initiatives beginning with our St. Sophia Mothers Club Ministry, and it will take some time to develop an integrated awareness of all of the opportunities available to our families. At the end of the day, good youth ministry starts with engaged adults, and we have many of those. I am looking forward to a good year.
 - GOYA is off to a fantastic start. Our new officers were elected in August and they're a very active bunch with lots of plans for the coming year. The schedule for the year is set and printed in the Voice - make sure to check it out and let your teens know.
 - This year, our big ministry initiative with our teenagers is to take them on a trip to Boston to see the seminary. When I got here, a number of parents told me about how great their trips to Boston were when they were kids, and I know a connection with a faith that is bigger than their hometown is an important part of a teen's development. A more detailed plan with an itinerary will be presented in October along with a ministry vision that would include a presentation by our GOYA to the parish after their trip.
 - Our college students are back in full force, and they are very active on campus at UC. Presvytera Ginny and I have set up a schedule to host them once a month for lunch after church on Sundays, and I have talked to a couple members of the Philoptochos board about putting together care packages for the students in December. Fr. Mark and I are also working on plans to be available more regularly on or near campus.
 - Our young adults are active across Parish ministries, but a dedicated Young Adult Fireside Chat is scheduled for Friday, October 4th. As a reminder, young adult ministry is adult ministry, and that means we should all be encouraging our young adults to be active in Bible Study, Reading Group, Parish Council, etc.

Treasurer's report:

- Kim Lambrinides
 - North Side has a current balance of \$184,120. Our capital improvement fund is down to \$3,360, while the loan is at \$80,475. The Endowment Fund is at \$1,324,120.

- Grounds maintenance is larger than normal due to the parking lot blacktopping, which we take care of every other year.
- For the month we are operating at a loss of \$34,544, but year-to-date we are actually running a surplus of \$76,886.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building
 - The north side ceiling in the church is repaired. That area may finally be solved. Next on the schedule is the copper outside the narthex, scheduled to be completed tomorrow.
 - Financials
 - We have about enough to cover three months right now and should be seeing more income as more Stewardship comes in.

New Business:

- General Assembly
 - Peggy Kehayes moved to approve the agenda, Gus Lazares. seconded, the motion passed.
- 2020 Budget
 - Buzzy Gaz moved to accept the budget as proposed, Ron Nichols seconded, the motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Commitments stand at \$318,800, up around \$30,000 from this time last year. Households have increased by 17. Our received Stewardship is lower than last year and the number of stewards who have already given is slightly lower than last year, but we also have a number of new families beginning to pledge.
 - Stewardship Sunday is this Sunday. Remember to bring your commitment cards. Angelo Soulas will be supplying sandwiches and Bill will speak to the congregation.

ADJOURNMENT

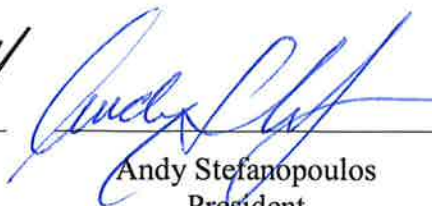
Call to adjourn: Buzzy Gaz moved to adjourn, Kim Lambrinides seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:05 PM.

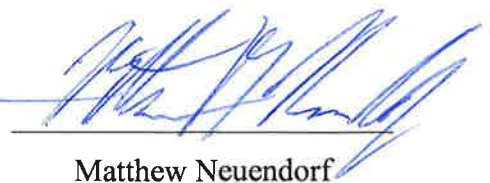
Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary