



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

Members present: Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis, Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

Members absent: Gus Koutsogiannis,

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

Call to order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Swearing In:

- Fr. Mark administered the affirmation of office to Gus Poneris and Sylvia Rombis.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - Welcome to 2020. It's very exciting. Last year was incredible. We had two goals: one, to ordain Deacon Nick, the other to push Stewardship. We succeeded at both. With three major projects in the works, this year is just as exciting.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the December minutes as distributed online, Tom Tsiominas seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included two items from Metropolitan Nicholas: a Christmas card and message and a thank-you note for remembering his name day.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - We are looking forward to an excellent year.
 - Metropolitan Nicholas has been under doctor's care, but he looks to be on the mend.
 - Members of the Parish Council need to turn in their conflict of interest forms. Everyone needs to take their 2019-20 Liturgical schedules as well.

- Thank you everyone for the wonderful holiday leading up to and including Christmas, and for diligence in ushering and welcoming people at the Narthex. As a reminder, it is not inappropriate for Parish Council members to approach parents with children who are overly disruptive to offer kindly and with love that they bring their children to the Narthex until they are settled. Use common sense.
- Joanne Georgostathis has submitted a letter of intent for serving on the Parish Council.
- Our Youth Safety Protection Policy compliance is still in progress. Presidium is receiving information for processing.
- The Clergy retreat is tentatively scheduled for February 10-12, Monday to Wednesday, at a place yet to be determined. Father Mark and Dn. Nick will be attending. The Metropolitan Council meeting will also take place at that time.
- The iconography project is waiting on Tonelli and another committee meeting.
- Deacon Nick
 - It is always encouraging to see how the community responds to the needs of those around it. In youth safety it is always better to have more people than fewer, so if any Council members wish to be vetted it would be good.
 - We have moved completely away from a hosted, paid stream to Facebook and YouTube. Some people are using smart TVs with YouTube set up for homebound parishioners.
 - HOPE/JOY is consistently well attended.
 - GOYA did a Theophany game night using an X-Box hooked up to the projector in the great hall. They assisted at the City Gospel Mission last Tuesday. Their Lenten retreat is approaching. The deposit is paid. It is set for April 3-5 at Camp Kern. It is the first annual retreat.
 - The Young Adults are looking to plan a conference for the region. A committee is meeting to schedule it.
 - The Oratorical Festival is approaching, and is a really good opportunity for the youth. We had three kids attend a workshop.
 - Crossroad is a summer institute in Boston and Chicago for juniors going into their senior year and seniors going to college, and is the single best transition program for Orthodox students. It has sessions in June and July, at ten days per session, with financial aid available.
 - The regional St. Nicholas summer camp is for students aged 8-18 who have not graduated from high school, but we need staff and councilors. College students, teachers, young adults, and so on are all eligible as staff. It is scheduled for July 5-12.
 - Our college students have a 30-person service opportunity with FOCUS. The Parish Council needs to be as welcoming as possible to college students, as being away from home can be incredibly difficult. We have a number of catechumens as well. Continue welcoming them and everyone.
 - From March 28-30, there is a college Lenten retreat at Camp Kern, which is open to all Orthodox college students.
 - The consolidated, global sign-up process has worked very well.

Treasurer's report:

- Peggy
 - Compared to last year the Endowment Fund is up. For December, we had an operational loss of \$52, but for the year, we had a net income of \$26,169.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Worker's Compensation
 - There was no expense this year due to refunds distributed by the BWC.
 - Narthex Ceiling
 - Pastrimas Painting gave us a good quote. Including a donation, it will be \$2,400 to do the whole thing.
 - Building Issues
 - Give Eugene or Craig a note if anyone notices any issues and they will see them addressed.
 - Repairs
 - The contract is signed for the restoration project. They estimate to start in the next few weeks. With weather cooperation, the project should last around six weeks.
 - Small Hall
 - A/V companies are coming in to evaluate the space and offer proposals. Then we will look at the renovation proper. It will start after Panegyri, and should be done quickly.
 - Outreach
 - We distributed 300 ham meals for Christmas. The generosity towards this ministry is overwhelming. Our holiday distributions were fully funding, and we carried over \$2,400 into 2020. This will keep our pantry stocked.
 - Finances
 - Our North Side Checking balance is up from this time last year at \$141,422.
 - We have a Capital Improvement balance of \$144,431, which will fund the exterior restoration project and the small hall renovation.
 - The Endowment Fund balance is currently \$1,426,518, which is up significantly from last year. We have \$49,801 available for a disbursement in 2020, for ministries, capital improvements, and other extraordinary expenditures.
 - We have \$2,056,362 available in our Iconography Fund.
 - As of today, we have only \$43,120 to pay off on our renovation loan.

New Business:

- Appointment of a new Parish Council member
 - Joanne Georgostathis submitted a letter of intent for service on the Council. Andrea Siouris moved to appoint Joanne to fill a vacancy on the Council, Sylvia Rombis seconded, the motion passed. Two vacancies remain to be filled.
- Security
 - It may be appropriate for the Council to revisit establishing a security plan. Any plan requires awareness and vigilance, and the first line of defense is always the parish leadership. We also need to evaluate an evacuation plan, especially for the SCS wing.
- Loan Balance
 - Peggy Kehayes moved to use the general fund to pay off our remaining loan balance, Andrea Siouris seconded, the motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Commitments are up from last year, as is the average per household, but the number of pledged households is down. Receipts are up from last year and stewards who have given are up as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Andrea Siouris moved to adjourn, Peggy Kehayes seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:27 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary