



# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 17, 2020

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Father Mark Emroll

**Clergy absent:** Deacon Nick Tzetzis

**Members present:** Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Poneris, Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

**Members absent:** Peggy Kehayes, Sylvia Rombis

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

### MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom to comply with stay-at-home orders.

**Call to order:** Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Fr. Mark led the Parish Council in the opening prayer.

#### **President's remarks:**

- It looks like things are starting to speed up again, so our decision making looks like it will be ramping up.

#### **Secretary's report:**

- Bill Kanelopoulos moved to accept the August minutes as distributed online, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Mark
  - This coming Sunday is Stewardship Sunday.
  - The Clergy-Laity conference adopted a resolution allowing parishes to forego elections this year. The Parish Council needs to make a determination as to

whether we will proceed with the election or not. If we plan to hold elections, we must inform the Metropolis.

- The Metropolitan sent an addendum to his directives that addressed general assemblies. At a minimum, it is important for us to hold a general assembly to approve a budget. The logistical requirements, in light of our existing distancing measures, make gathering a quorum difficult. Father Mark will seek further guidance and clarity from the Metropolis. We were planning to hold the General Assembly on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, but we can likely push it back to the 18<sup>th</sup> if needed.
- Bible Study has resumed using Zoom.
- We received a reminder from the metropolis clarifying that we are not to hold any classes or programs such as Greek School or Sunday Church School in person.
- Sunday Church School will hopefully resume in the next few weeks using Discord to organize it, possibly with Zoom for some individual classes.
- Father Mark will be away from October 23 to 25. Father Nick will be presiding at Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Tomorrow afternoon Father Mark will be leaving for Michigan and will be presiding at the ordination on Saturday at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helen. Orthros begins at 9 and the liturgy at 10.

**Treasurer's report:**

- Tom
  - Northside Checking **\$123,775 vs.** \$197,200 in 2019
  - Capital Improvement **\$67,948 vs.** \$3,300 in 2019
  - Endowment **\$ 1,487,830 vs.** \$1,315,910 in 2019
  - Iconography Fund **\$ 2,066,950 vs** \$2,047,380 in 2019
  - Utility charges will show as higher this month because of a billing error, which will be corrected in next month's financial report.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- Eugene Nicholas
  - Sunday Church School Wing Leaking
    - Craig and Gus Poneris may have found the problem and are working to resolve it.
  - Altar HVAC
    - We hope to get a quote soon from Feldkamp for installing a dedicated HVAC for the altar area.
  - Small Hall Renovation
    - Since postponing the project due to Covid-19, we have had several items donated, including ceiling tiles. With all said and done, we are looking at around \$30,000 to finish the project, against a budgeted amount of \$70,000. We can safely pursue this project without impacting our cash flow at all, and everything except the floor can be done now.

- Due to being a polling place, we will likely defer replacing the floor until after the election, unless distancing requirements make it necessary for them to move to the gym.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Small Hall Renovations
  - Bill Kanelopoulos moved to restart the project, Gus Poneris seconded, the motion passed.
- Endowment
  - Eugene
    - We can apply Endowment funds to bills already paid if they fall under approved categories, such as capital improvement, especially if there are extraordinary circumstances. We are expecting a budget shortfall by the end of the year of around \$40,000.
  - Gus Poneris moved to draw \$42,000 from the Endowment Fund to use for capital improvement and ministry expenses due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic. Tom Tsiominas seconded. The motion passed.

**New Business:**

- Election
  - Andrea Siouris moved to suspend elections for the year 2020 due to ongoing restrictions and difficulties from the covid-19 pandemic, per the decision of the 2020 Clergy-Laity conference. Joanne Georgostathis seconded. The motion passed.
- Budget
  - Tom Tsiominas
    - We presented a balanced budget, incorporating a likely reduction in Panegyri revenue, by increasing budgeted Stewardship by \$80,000, for a total of \$590,000. We wanted to include a Panegyri item to signal that we intend to host one. We also scaled back some key expenses, especially to reflect continued Phase 1 distancing requirements. We also wanted to offer cost-of-living increases for Craig, Eugene, and soon-to-be Father Nick, amounting to a 1% increase.
    - The Stewardship increase may look sizeable, but our current Stewardship numbers are strong enough to make \$590,000 a realistic target. Balancing the budget without a Panegyri would have required Stewardship increasing to \$700,000 or more.
  - Andrea Siouris moved to accept the budget as presented, Gus Poneris seconded, the motion passed.
- Out-Doors Coffee Hour
  - Fr. Mark
    - The ability to host a coffee hour is important. Please think of ways that we can approach it.

**Stewardship Report:**

- Bill Kanelopoulos
  - Commitments are up over \$85,000 from last year. Received is up over \$116,000, by the Grace of God and the generosity of our parishioners.
  - Stewardship Sunday is this Sunday. The 2021 mailers went out and people have been delivering or mailing in their commitments for next year. We will have a basket at the check-in table to collect additional commitment envelopes as people come in.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Call to adjourn:** Tom Tsiominas moved to adjourn, Gus Koutsogiannis 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  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary