



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 18, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Father Nick Tzetzis

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

Members absent: Sylvia Rombis

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom to comply with physical distancing orders.

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

Fr. Mark led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - One idea that Tom Tsiominas originally brought up for us to consider is whether or not we should return to the teams/captains system. It might help return some structure to our Narthex duties.

Secretary's report:

- Matthew Neuendorf
 - Some minor punctuation and wording corrections need to be made. The Stewardship number for 2020 needs to be adjusted.
 - Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the January minutes as corrected, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
 - We received no correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - Every year the Parish Council must sign the conflict disclosure policy. Father will send it out next week.

- Dean Francis submitted a biography for the Parish Council's consideration as a possible appointee to fill the vacant 2-year term.
- Lent is quickly approaching. Father has a draft of the Liturgical calendar. We intend to have all the services of Lent this year. We will not have any Wednesday morning Divine Liturgies during Lent. The weekday services historically have not been full and the logistics involved with registering for each service mean that we will not require registration for the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evening services. Sunday services will still require registration. If we see that weekday evening services are becoming overcrowded, we may have to readjust.
- The Spring General Assembly is coming up on March 7. It will be shortly after Divine Liturgy. If we do not reach a quorum, we are tentatively using March 14 as a secondary date with the quorum being those in attendance.
- We will continue to operate in the same fashion as we have been regarding pandemic restrictions until we receive finalized revisions and updates. Each community has its own identity and needs, and we will do what is best for our Parish in accordance with guidelines.
- Fr. Nick
 - We have a few digital initiatives that are due to start shortly. Sunday Church School online sessions will begin in March. They will be weekly, for 6th to 12th grades. Father Nick or Fr. Mark will lead the session, then the students will do break-out discussion sessions, then everyone will meet again to discuss any questions that came up.
 - Solutions for younger children are still up in the air.
 - GOYA is having a Paraclesis service next week with a lesson afterward.
 - March 13 is the OCF regional retreat. We will be hosting a number of college students that Sunday.
 - Our reading groups are still going. One will meet tomorrow. Our Monday group has a great crew.

Treasurer's report:

- Tom Tsiominas
 - Northside Checking **\$212,950 vs.** \$113,600 in 2020.
 - Capital Improvement **\$25,310 vs.** \$144,434 in 2020.
 - Endowment **\$ 1,621,710 vs.** \$1,445,100 in 2020.
 - Iconography Fund **\$ 2,067,915 vs** \$2,061,008 in 2020.
 - We are in an incredible financial position so far in 2021, especially given the pandemic situation this year and last, which is a testament to the generosity of our parishioners.
 - Our checking account is up from the end of last year by around \$63,000, which is excellent.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building
 - We got two quotes for replacing our boiler. Feldkamp came in with the better quote, around \$3,000 less, for the same boilers.
 - Enviroworx is the best option for asbestos removal. If there is no asbestos, it only reduces the price by \$600 since the bulk of the work is the removal.

- We will replace the single large boiler with two high efficiency ones, which will give us redundancy.
- Our main waters heaters will be replaced with two tankless unit. We will also replace the water heaters in the office and the SCS wing.
- The total cost of the project is \$130,000. We expect to be able to fund this with \$52,000 from the Endowment Fund, \$23,000 from the Capital Improvement fund, and a fundraising appeal for the remaining \$55,000.
- It is possible that the alarm is being triggered when the expansion tank fills up.
- We hope to delay the project for a couple of months, to prevent losing heat and to allow us to choose the timing to suit our needs.
- Monitoring and switch devices have been purchased to allow us to reset the boiler remotely.

Unfinished Business:

- Boiler/Water Heater Project
 - Tom Tsiominas moved that we follow the recommendation of the Building Committee for the boiler and water heater project, using the proposed financing, to draw \$52,000 from the Endowment Fund, \$23,000 from the capital improvement fund, and a \$55,000 fundraising appeal, not to exceed \$130,000. Gus Poneris seconded. The motion passed.

New Business:

- Appointment of Dean Francis to the Parish Council
 - His appointment would be for the vacant 2-year term ending in 2022.
 - Peggy Kehayes moved to appoint Dean Francis to Parish Council. Joanne Georgostathis seconded. The motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - It looks like Stewardship commitments and receipts are both higher YTD this year compared to 2020, which is very promising. Commitments stand at \$392,610. Receipts stand at \$131,955. The total number of Parish households is at 835 compared to 864, which is in large part due to pruning the database and updating records.
 - The committee met and reviewed numbers, with Tom Tsiominas leading a deep data analysis. We also looked at things that we can continue doing to support our Parish's efforts.

Committee Reports:

- Panegyri Committee:
 - Eugene Nicholas
 - We have found a good e-commerce web host for our ordering system. We have tasked out jobs and have another meeting scheduled in two weeks.
 - We got our gyro sample in and all five taste testers gave it high marks. It looks, feels, and tastes like it is off the cone without requiring us to carve it off the cone.
 - Our core selection is pastichio, gyro, Greek chicken and Greek pizza. All items will be sold as dinners. We may have some ala carte selection.

- Pastries will include baklava, pasta flora, kourambiethes, koulourakia, and melomakarona. No items will be sold individually; pack and assortments will be available.
- Peter Zaferes should give a more detailed presentation at the General Assembly.
- Preview Night, parishioner-only to test our system, is Thursday, June 24. Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th will be the public opening.
- We are looking for a chairperson who can lead the e-commerce portion of our Panegyri To Go.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Bill Kanelopoulos moved to adjourn, Peggy Kehayes seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Nick led the closing prayer at 7:35 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary