



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 21, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll.

Members present: Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Buzzy Gaz, David Greene, Bill Kanelopoulos, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou, Nektarios Papasavvas.

Members absent: George Haralamos, Stacey Loukoumidis.

Members-elect present: Kim Lambrinides, Jay Williams.

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Mr. Nick Tzetzis.

MEETING

Call to order: Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

President's remarks:

- Welcome, members elect of the 2018 Council.
- Thanks to everyone for your diligence in helping us to get through this year. As a Council we have accomplished quite a bit. Everyone was eager and cooperative. We governed well and did well over the last couple of years. New members, get involved and you can accomplish a lot.
- We currently do have enough people to cover all three Christmas services.

Secretary's report:

- Dimitri moved to accept the minutes as finally revised and distributed online, Buzzy seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included the Shepherd's Staff and a Christmas card, both from Metropolitan Nicholas.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark:
 - Christmas Eve schedule: Sunday morning we will have services as typically scheduled. Sunday evening we will hold Great Vespers at 6:00 pm, at which there will be no Holy Communion offered. The tray that evening should be passed at the conclusion of service before we sing our Christmas carols. Monday morning

we will hold Matins at 8:30 followed by Divine Liturgy. Trays will be passed at the usual time.

- Fr. Mark will be out from the 26th to the 30th.
- Parish elections have been ratified, so the affirmation of office can be administered and the Parish Council officers can be elected. January 7 will be the date for the affirmation and the special meeting for officer elections. The affirmation will happen after the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, followed by the blessing of the Vasilopita. Father will bless the luncheon and then the new Parish Council will meet and elect officers.
- Clergy-Laity will be in Boston from the 1st to the 5th of July.
- We got a call from Lou Kircos asking for us to consider one of two options for paying our Archdiocesan allocation (\$98,022): first, paying everything up-front with a 2% discount (saving \$1,960.44); or second, splitting it into two equal payments with the first half in January with a 1% discount (saving \$980.22). Our allocation was slightly reduced from last year since the percentages were frozen.
- Thanks to Karen and her committee members and other helpers for all of their efforts with the concert and reception. The entire event was wonderful.
- Mr. Nick
 - HOPE/JOY has seen increasing numbers from the start of the year until now and have bigger plans going forward. They began this year with around 8-10 attendees per event, and are now averaging 15-20. Mr. Nick and Fr. Mark met with the St. Sophia Mothers Club about doing more with Hope and Joy, which since the demographics of the two groups are quite distinct we are looking at separating. Last month we discussed patience.
 - GOYA's December was quite busy. They adopted a Mt. Healthy family and donated gifts to them. They did team building activities. They discussed relating Christmas carols and Church hymns. They sang at a retirement home. Looking ahead, winter and spring will be stacked with events, starting off with a Theophany game night followed by things like a regional retreat on MLK, Jr. day, the Dayton Basketball Tournament, and even talks with regional GOYAs about hosting a Lenten retreat.
 - The Young Adults went to the Festival of Lights at the Cincinnati Zoo and then had an impromptu game night at Maria Emroll's apartment. They are looking to start a reading group in the spring.
 - Mr. Nick has been using the youth budget to stock up on supplies and activities for the various groups and has been employing digital resources to good effect.

Treasurer's report:

- Our current checking account balance is \$128,511. We have \$32,898 in the capital improvement fund. The year-end balance, after the rest of the month's bills are paid, should remain over \$100,000, compared to about \$60,000 for the end of last year.
- Stewardship for November has brought us nearly to even with the year-to-date for last year, with the past month seeing us take in around \$11,000 more than we did last year.
- It was noted by Eugene that we have been receiving refunds for worker's compensation due to changes to the system, which indicates we had overpaid in past years.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Hours
 - The office will be closed on Monday. Eugene will be out on Tuesday and Wednesday but Mr. Nick will be there all week after Monday.
 - Craig will not be working this Sunday or on Christmas day.
- Outreach
 - We distributed 351 turkeys for Thanksgiving. We distributed 345 meals and had a lot of help from numerous volunteers of all ages.
- Building
 - Our electrical panel upgrade is complete and in compliance with the insurance company's requests. Our rate moved from a 3-year basis to annual and increased by \$996 (5.6%). Cincinnati Insurance has offered to conduct an appraisal for no charge. Our current replacement insurance cover is \$9.3 million.
- White Boards
 - The ones we bought a few years ago are already in terrible shape and Eugene highly recommends replacing them. Freight costs have increased for now but the vendor is working to cut the item price to keep the overall cost similar. If we add an additional white board for the conference room, the cost without any price breaks, would be around \$4,000.
- Panegyri
 - Murray Bros. Shows will be closing their business, so we will need to find a new ride vendor. Paul Murray suggested we contact Kissel Bros. Shows.
 - Peter Zaferes is stepping up as a new co-chair for this year, with the ultimate goal of enabling Eugene to step back from chairing to focus on the behind-the-scenes work.

New Business:

- Archdiocesan Allocation
 - Chris moved to take \$48,000 from our checking account and \$48,000 from the Endowment Fund to make our entire allocation in January. Buzzy seconded. After discussion, Chris withdrew the motion.
 - Matthew moved to pay half of our allocation in January and half in July after Panegyri. Nektarios seconded. David said it is a good deal and further discussion followed. The motion passed.
- White Boards
 - Dimitri moved to set aside \$4,000 for glass whiteboards. Chris seconded. The motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Thank you to the entire Holy Trinity–St. Nicholas Parish Family for another strong Stewardship year!
- Regarding Stewardship Sunday, which took place on November 19, 2017, some takeaways that the Stewardship Committee had to help make the execution of this event better included:
 1. Formally announcing the date earlier (**Goal:** By the Fall General Assembly)

2. Sending friendly follow-up communication via email to the Parish just before Stewardship Sunday.
- Discussion also took place on setting aside specific dates for Name Tag Sundays
 - Ideas included Godparents Sunday and the first day of Sunday Church School.
 - The Stewardship Committee will work with Fr. Mark to try to bring in a guest speaker sometime in 2018 to talk about Stewardship.
 - We will need somebody to help with managing the Great Hall projector announcements.

Committee Reports:

- Strategic Planning
 - Thank you to Fr. Mark for the in-church announcement on December 3. Nektarios has approached a few of the people mentioned in the November meeting who have expressed that they are happy to help out. We will choose a date in January for the next big meeting, which will include all of these nominated individuals.
 - Our materials are available on our website. We need to educate our fellow parishioners about what we are trying to accomplish and how they can help.

Presentation of gifts:

- Fr. Mark presented, on behalf of himself, the Parish Council, and the entire Parish membership, a gift for Nick for his service as Parish Council President in the form of a gavel and plaque.
- Fr. Mark also presented a gift to those members of the Parish Council who have completed their terms and are no longer serving, in the form of icons of St. Nicholas.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Dimitri moved to adjourn. Justin seconded. The motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:52 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary