



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 18, 2017

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Mark Emroll, Fr. William Redmon.

**Members present:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Buzzy Gaz, George Haralamos, Bill Kanelopoulos, Stacey Loukoumidis, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Nektarios Papasavvas.

**Members absent:** Chris Chrysosvergis, David Greene, Jessica Mavridoglou

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas.

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

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

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

- Panegyri is coming up.
- Committee meetings need to happen.

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

- Justin moved to accept the minutes as reported, Stacey seconded, the motion passed.
- Received correspondence included a Shepherd's Staff.

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Mark:
  - We have received 8 thank-you notes for scholarships. In addition to the check, each recipient got a letter with suggested protocol.
  - This coming Sunday will be very busy. We will have both Sunday Church School awards and AHEPA Sunday. There will be a blessing of the five loaves sponsored by AHEPA and DOP.
  - Helen Cimarosti, who has been coordinating our Nursery, will be stepping down after over forty years of service. We will be presenting her with a plaque of recognition and flowers, as well as holding coffee hour in her honor.

- As Memorial Day approaches, we will be holding a service of blessing for families who have members interred at Spring Grove Cemetery. It will begin at 9:30, followed by specific grave-side prayers.
- June 3 will see another Saturday of Souls, with liturgy and a memorial starting at 8:30.
- Pentecost is June 4 this year.
- Fr. William:
  - HOPE/JOY's May meeting outlined the Vacation Church School program. It will be their last meeting until September. They also explained the tradition of the Holy Fire.
  - GOYA's IOCC service project was on May 7. It was a huge success. They made 500 hygiene kits. May 27 will have the elections at the picnic. There will be a ministry meeting on May 25 with Fr. Mark. GOYA will cup tzatziki on June 10.
  - YAL had a meet-and-greet with Fr. Mark, which went well.
  - The VCS curriculum is set. It will cover Acts of the Apostles. Flyers and registration forms have been distributed and will be again. There are 6 staff assigned so far, but we are still looking for more. We hope to approach the Mothers' Club.
  - The camp registration deadline is at the end of the month. Reminders will continue. We have four parish youth interested in staff positions.

**Treasurer's report:**

- Our North Side balance is down a little, but our Endowment Fund is up slightly. Pascha donations were up, Holy Week trays as well as memorials and candles were up, which is positive but probably only temporary for Holy Week and Pascha.
- Our net operational income is still negative, but it is not as bad as it could be, especially leading into Panegyri.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- Personnel
  - Craig's family reunion was postponed to September, so he will be here before Panegyri and will take his vacation at the later date instead.
- Financial
  - North Side is at \$17,387, which is significantly reduced from last month, though it does include most of the bills for the month as well as the last week's payroll. The capital improvement fund is at \$4,885, which is just enough to make the next payment.
  - We sold Fr. Bill's old car for \$16,100 and these proceeds should cover our car allowance expenses for this year.
  - We may make it all the way to Panegyri without touching the line of credit. It will likely be close, but it might happen.
- Panegyri
  - We have filled all chair positions.

- We have a new sponsor for hummus for Yiayia's Mezethakia, which will also provide volunteers: Taziki's Mediterranean Café out of Mason.
- The Panegyri schedule will be in the Voice as well as distributed via email. The Voice will include three articles asking for volunteers. Online sign-ups will begin next week. Marketing stuff is available, with posters and yard signs in the Large Hall ready to be picked up.

**Old Business:**

- Security
  - The Facilities Committee met and decided that the best way to handle things is in two phases. First, redo the current lighting, then, add more lighting. We have to deal with zoning regulations for phase two. Hopefully we'll have bids by the next meeting.
- Beautification
  - The committee needs to meet to consider a path toward completing our Iconography.
- Gym Icon
  - Fr. Mark spoke with the prospective donor, but discussions are still progressing.

**New Business:**

- Large Hall Display Policy
  - George moved to make the following our Display Policy: "The purpose of the Sunday display projector is to provide parishioners with information on church events and activities. Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Parish Ministries and Organizations as well as Community Organizations are encouraged to submit information for display. The Presiding Priest must approve all submissions. Submissions should be made no later than Monday preceding the desired Sunday display date." Stacey seconded. The motion passed.

**Stewardship Report:**

- We are still about \$30,000 short from this time last year, even though the average pledge per household is up. We simply have fewer families pledging. The same is true for pledges received, with the average up but the total number of families down.
- We have entered volunteer and interest data from the pledge cards into our software and can begin using it to approach people.
- We have an extra stewardship message available for a future *Voice*, which gives us a little bit of a cushion.

**Committee Reports:**

- Special Events
  - The Labor Day picnic is coming up. We need volunteers to grill burgers and help with setup and take down. We might be able to arrange some live music this year.
- Building Renovation

- We finally put together a thank-you letter, personalized for each donor. It will be sent out tomorrow. Any further donations from this point forward will immediately cause a letter to be sent.
- Strategic Planning
  - The next meeting is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

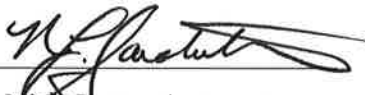
**Call to adjourn:** Dimitri moved to adjourn, George seconded, the motion passed.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. William offered the closing prayer at 8:07 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Nick J. Sarakatsannis  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary