

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Minutes
February 13, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting called to order by President Mary Winstead.

Opening Prayer: Father Paul Christy opened with a prayer.

Members Present: John Demos, Leslie Dombalis, Steve Flaherty, Maria Hicks, Jason Kekas, Sydney Langford, Harry Nicholas, Jim Riley, Mary Wehbie, Mary Winstead.

Members Absent: Joanna Biliouris, David Kouba, Bob Lyford, Costa Panagos, Pavlos Pavlides.

Minutes: Mary Wehbie

Minutes sent electronically in advance of the meeting. Motion to accept by Harry Nicholas. Second by Sydney Langford. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Harry Nicholas

Harry reviewed the balance sheet and profit/loss statement. He notes January stewardship is above budget and reports that many stewards paid full annual pledge in January. He notes the transfers made on the balance sheets that were discussed at last meeting. Motion to accept by John Demos. Second by Steve Flaherty. Motion carried.

SAMP: Cynthia Gallion unable to attend due to illness.

Mary Winstead reported that Cynthia Gallion would like to increase support given to mission priests. She would like the Board to consider passing a tray, keep the money in a restricted fund and use for a scholarship when an individual would like to go on a mission trip. Sydney Langford notes that Philoptochos has supported several who have requested funds. Mary Wehbie expresses concern about passing too many trays, something that the Parish Council has had to restrict. Also unclear whether this is for OCMC mission trips or to SAMP. Mary Winstead will invite Cynthia to discuss when she is feeling better.

Ministries Assignments: Maria Hicks

Maria has assigned Parish Council members to update the Council on their assigned ministries. She updates on Greek School. Zoe Pusic is the director and reports that there are 53 children and 4 adults enrolled, Foti Fotiou teaches an online course. Registration fee is \$15. She is concerned about having enough teachers. A new member recently expressed interest in teaching and Leslie Dombalis will reach out to her. Maria wondered if having 6 teachers and rotating so that there are fewer Sunday's to teach may help. Sydney suggested placing a schedule on the candle stand so that Parish Council will know when classes are in session. The Greek school will be having a program on Greek Independence Day. Maria reports that she has 20 ambassadors, 9 of whom are new. She is planning an ambassador lunch in the spring to thank them for their service.

Clergy Laity: Sydney Langford

Sydney reports that approximately 500 packets have been mailed to Parish presidents, priests, archons, Philoptochos presidents and choir representatives. The governor and mayor have been invited to speak. Philoptochos Metropolis president Dee Nicholaou will be visiting 2/24 and 2/25. Homeless female veterans will be recipients of Philoptochos gift. A checking account is set up. Requests for advertisements to begin next week. A goal is to have enough money earned over expenses to send an amount to Metropolis and to have an amount for the parish. There will be some opportunity for parish members to attend socials, volunteer, etc.

Easter Picnic: Mary Winstead

Mary thanks Anna Kouba and Francesca Panagos for agreeing to organizing the Easter picnic. They will begin after the talent show. Discussion followed regarding location of picnic. Mary Winstead had concerns

for the elderly being on the grass and there is also concern for children crossing the street. A suggestion was made to have picnic on the side of the church and have activities, such as softball in the field.

Holy Week Signup: Mary Winstead

Mary passed around a sign up sheets for Holy Week and Pascha services. Discussion followed about number of members to have on duty Friday and Saturday night.

General Assembly: Mary Winstead

General Assembly is March 19. Deadline for agenda items is February 24. Parish Councils requested updates of festival, painting, stewardship, and clergy laity. Preschool would like to present.

Coffee Hour: Mary Winstead

When no one sponsors Mary inquires whether the parish council should provide something to eat. Discussion followed. Some ideas presented were to have ministries provide a treat and have a tray for donations to their ministry; have a set price for items such as bagels, juice, coffee, etc. for 150 people and members can sponsor the coffee hour; or have treats provided at parish cost. Maria Hicks was in Wilmington recently and it was more inviting. They also had a welcome table in the hall. Mary will have Rob price some items.

Safety Issues: Mary Winstead

Mary Winstead asked Mary Wehbie whether training could be provided for the AED. Mary Wehbie can give an overview but is not trained to teach others. She reports that the company has notified her that the AED should be replaced. She will follow up and report back.

Mary Winstead has been notified that a fox has been seen on the playground in the daytime. Mary made several inquiries. The City of Raleigh does not take action unless the animal is aggressive. Critter Control does not address unless injury occurred. The animal has not been seen for several days. The situation will be monitored.

Presanctified Liturgy: Sydney Langford

Vegetarian chili will be prepared on March 1. Sydney and Mary Wehbie will set up. Fr. Polycarp will speak. Please notify Sydney if you can bring dessert.

Habitat workday: Mary Winstead

Mary has not had much interest in workday. 15 individual are needed. Jason recommends publicizing to the community and announcing in church.

Father Paul Comments:

- Metropolitan Alexios will be having a meeting in Greensboro on March 21. He encouraged Parish Council members to attend. Mary Winstead and Harry Nicholas plan to attend.
- He reports that the Metropolitan has changed the time that the collection should be done. It will now be done after the consecration. Additional petitions will be prayed during this time.
- The Eritreans would like to use the church the last weekend in June or first weekend in July. With Clergy Laity and Holiday weekend, Parish Council does not feel this is advisable.
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President's Comments:

- Mary Winstead received thank you notes from Fr. Polycarp and Deacon Gavriilo.
- Candle for Memorial Services: Please remember to light the candles prior to memorial services. Father will have altar boys perform this task.
- Leslie Dombalis inquires whether there is altar boy training. Training is schedule before Easter.

Old Business:

- Jason Kekas updated on festival. He had a positive meeting with the State Fairgrounds management and chief of highway patrol. Dennis Kekas and Jeff Winstead were in attendance as well. Jason was given assurance that 4 gates would remain opened instead of 2 gates. For 20-25 minutes after the game, there will be unavoidable traffic congestion. Volunteers will need to park in allocated volunteer lot. Communication for volunteers will be better. The Expo Center is not rented at this time and it will not be rented. Jason is waiting written confirmation. Cooking schedule is being set. Notes are being prepared for vendors. Kick off luncheon will be April 23. Solicitation for ads will begin. Billboard location we used last year is unavailable this year. Other options are being considered. May dates are not available.
- OCF is having a conference on February 25-26. If you are able to host a student in your home, let Father know.
- Harry Nicholos will attend Data Systems Workshop February 25th.

New Business:

- Mary Winstead had a request to rent our hall for several evenings per week on a regular basis. Parish Council decided this is not feasible given difficulty scheduling our own events.
- Jason recommended a documentary for our community to consider viewing. The title is Screen Agers and highlights the danger of mobile devices. His parents saw the documentary and report it had excellent information. Cost is \$500. Some communities invite the public and charge admission to cover cost.
- Scholarship applications to be released soon. Mary Winstead reports that included in the awards are 4 scholarships valued at \$2500 this year.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15PM by Mary Wehbie.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wehbie