

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
March 20, 2018

Opening Prayer: Father Paul Christy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Call to Order: President Mary Winstead called the meeting to order at 7PM.

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

Member Absent: David Kouba, Leon Kythas, Costa Panagos, Steve Ryan

Guests: Faith Inman and Brian Simorka, representatives from the Durham Bulls
Rob Shand, Pastoral assistant

Minutes: Minutes sent electronically in advance of the meeting. Motion to accept by John Demos. Seconded by Jim Riley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Lyford

Bob reviewed the Balance sheet. Bob reviewed the Profit/Loss statement. Expenses are in line to budget. The Schwab account is where 3-4 parishioners give money by donating shares. The money initially is credited to the Schwab account and then transferred. A small amount is left in the account to keep it opened so that it is available when needed. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Jim Klemes. Seconded by Steve Flaherty. Motion carried.

Screenagers: Rob Shand

Joyce Kekas requested that our community show this documentary that discussed the dangers are being noted in those individuals who engage in prolonged screen usage. Rob has seen this program and his opinion is that the content of the film draws attention to bigger issues that are not productive. The positive is that it does initiate dialogue between parents and their children. Rob expresses concern that the documentary links screen use to other items such as drinking, pornography and body images. The program content does not effectively change these behaviors. Rob expressed that changes come from a desire to become closer to God. It is life in Christ that is effective to change. The documentary is a clinical approach by an MD. It is a good forum to discuss change. Rob, who has seen the documentary, does not find it an effective means to produce change in untoward behavior. It is helpful in initiating discussion between parents and children. Living life in Christ is a better option to rid oneself of such behavior. In Rob's experience these programs are not effective.

Jason reports that he has known of several instances where individuals he knows were using their phones and computers in such a manner that if their parents knew what was going on, they might have intervened and prevented serious problems for their children. Rob again reiterates that feels programs like this are not helpful. Change of heart must occur from a turn to God. There are a ton of Greek Orthodox programs put together that can be presented which offer an Orthodox perspective. His opinion is that Screenagers misses the point and pushes a nonorthodox agenda. He finds it a positive that it encourages people to talk to kids and presents technology as a potential problem. Rob thinks we could better spend time improving relationship between kids and parents. He again reports that there

are many resources within our church that could be presented. Bishop Nicholas has a program. Steve Chistoforou, director of Be the Bee is effective. Dr. Albert Rossi has a program, which does not whole-heartedly endorse. Mary Winstead recommends that Rob investigate current Orthodox programs and come back to PC with a program. PC agrees by consensus.

GOYA ministry: Maria Hicks and Rob Shand

It was noted that in January when we reviewed financials, GOYA was over budget by approximately \$2500. The overage from last year was due to an increase in fees in all areas. basketball league dues, WYR dues and associated expenses, including the bus cost. It is noted that Philoptochos sells Fanouropita as a fundraiser for youth. This goes to the Metropolis and not directly to our church. Agape luncheon also supports Metropolis youth programs. Philoptochos has money available for children who are not able to afford to pay registration fees. Discussion followed about buses and cost. The budgeted amount is \$10,000. It was left unchanged as no budget was submitted during budgeting process. Reworked budget. Rob reports that sweat shirt sales profited \$350 which can offset the difference. It has been determined that this year GOYA will pay city league fees and the players will pay the cost of the tournament. They will only attend one tournament this year. There is an interest to send a team to a tournament in May. It has been decided that if the players want to go on their own, players can pay. Discussion followed about transitioning a team of younger player to the Baptist league, the same as the older players. Leslie explained that we already have a team of Holy Trinity members playing in the Salvation Army league. Four fathers from our parish already coach it. Each family pays \$150 to play in the league. John Dombalis is proposing that each family pay to play in the Baptist league and there is a natural transition to the older team. There are scheduling challenges posed by the fact that our facilities are stretched already to accommodate our activities. Leslie will follow up and report back on the decisions made. Jason reports that there has to be some flexibility with their schedules as festival and other ministries also need use of the facilities. Maria Hicks opines that in the event of conflict the priority would need to go to the older team. She requests an additional \$1400 to cover shortfall expected. Bob Lyford notes that unfortunately the budget has been prepared, passed and implemented. The budget is determined in October and the information is needed.

Mary Wehbie feels that most of the difference could be made up with luminary sales. The GOYA sells them for Good Friday and Christmas Eve. Historically the money earned is donated to the Building Fund. She proposes that this year the money be placed to GOYA budget for use. She would like to see the GOYA students step and participate in the selling, setting up and taking down of the project. The parish appreciates efforts of the youth. PC agrees by consensus.

Questions arose regarding participation. Rob reports that there are no GOYA officers as it is easier to streamline. Some parents are involved in that they step up for activities in which their children are involved. Rob would like to see a structure where one parent is in charge of a specific area. Racheal Nicholos has some challenges as the dance leader as she was often overwhelmed. Maria encouraged Rob to set the expectation that a specific number of mentors are needed. The programs that have had the most success are those in which parents have stepped up. Maria recommended that Rob reach out to parents to lead programs and he be more involved in the spiritual side.

Durham Bulls Greek Night: Faith Inman, Brian Simorka Durham Bulls

Brian oversees group events for the Durham Bulls and Faith Inman oversees events on the field and stadium. Fr. Christy reached out to Durham Bulls to promote Greek Heritage Night. The proposed date is Saturday July 28 at 6:30Pm with fireworks post game. The following suggestions were offered.

- Faith is looking at offering a promotional t-shirt, which says “Its all *baseball* to me” , with baseball written in Greek.
- She may be able to offer a t-shirt/ticket option .
- She would love to have Grrek music, dancers and food.
- Food trucks come Friday night., but she thought several vendors would be interested in doing specialty themed food items. Greek beer was recommended.
- Activities for children are possible. She discussed several possibilities.
- She will investigate options to advertise the festival. The game sponsor will have a say in to what extent we can.
- A section of reserved seating is open for discussion. We can block seats together and set up the packages online. Communication will be necessary.
- Reserving a party deck can be explored.

Maria Hicks and Leslie Dombalis will chair the event and coordinate the details with Faith and Brian. Faith notes that Heritage Night is relatively new for the Durham Bulls. They had a very successful Hispanic Hertiage Night last season and are eager to make more successful events.

President meeting: Mark Langford and Lekita attended the Metropolis Presidents meeting. Mary reports that the Metropolitan is asking that we buy candles from Diakonia Center. We just placed an order and will not place an order for 6 months. In the past the quality was not as good as the candles from the Monastery. The cost from the monastery is marginally more expensive.

Pascha Picnic:

Anna Kouba reported to Mary Winstead she recommends that we do not have lamb this year. There is not certainty as to the completion of the kitchen. Chris Pappas estimates that it will be completed one week late. It will be mostly completed, but numerous inspections need to be done and the timetable is uncertain to plan an event for 450 to 500 people.

Options discussed were having Smithfield Barbeque cater, asking the community to bring their own meal this year, and catering lamb only. The PC prefers by consensus to have everyone bring their own meal this year. Tent, table and chair rental are underway. Discussion followed regarding location of the picnic. The organizing committee would like to take advantage of the “field of dreams” and have the picnic across the street. Safety concerns discussed. A crossing patrol will be hired to direct street crossing for \$150. Mary Winstead would like to ensure that information is in the bulletin this week. Motion by Maria Hicks to have the picnic across the street. Seconded by Leslie Dombalis. Motion carried.

Landscaping Contact: Bob Lyford and Jim Klemes

Bob Lyford reached out to an individual recommended by his son who is starting his business. His bid was \$300 more per month than Davis Landscaping. Jim Riley recommended reaching out to Trossa. Discussion followed with Jim recommending that we stay with Davis Landscaping for the next year. We have good working relationship, they are committed to continuing to provide good service. While the price increased the lower price by comparison may be that we are agreeable to them using our parking area for staging. Brian gave us our new contact when he moves to PA. The PC thanks Brian for his years of dedicated service. Only recently Chris sent Mary Winstead an email detailing work done by Brian without fee. Motion by John Demos to sign Davis Contract for one year. Seconded by Sydney Langford. Motion carried.

Kitchen Renovation: Mary Winstead.

The renovation is due to be completed about a week late, but within budget with \$10,000 donated and addition of the dishwasher. Penny Gallins and George Kapetankis will be present for cleaning and placing equipment and Harry Costa will be installing the shelves.

Festival Update: Jason Kekas

Jason reports that billboards being finalized. He is looking into how to streamline ads, perhaps cutting back on paper ads. He feels there is a danger that if we cut back too much, there is a danger of cutting the number of participants. There is a home NCSU game this year, time to be determined. He is looking at ways to decrease expenses this year. Trying to cut expenses this year. Vendor letters are going out. Sponsorship letters are going to go out. Artwork will be finalized. George Pappas will take over food preparation.

Comments: Father Paul Christy

Fr. Paul reports that the air conditioner in the altar was making a lot of noise. Evan Bundros came to troubleshoot. He will donate a new one. PC thanks Evan.

There are several catechumens ready to enter the Faith. Father is planning to have the service on Palm Sunday.

Presidents Comments: Mary Winstead

Palm Sunday. Francesca is being converted. She would like to have coffee hour. She asked Rob about what to bring. Lenten bagels and coffee.

Need another priest for palm Sunday.

Holy Week schedule passed around.

Sound system for Friday night. Chris asks that we rent 2 wireless mics for procession.

Chris asks if someone could coordinate with David Ford and Chris to take care of the procession. Jim Riley will work on this.

Hiring RPD: requested 2 policeman for Friday night.

Leslie will coordinate with Anna for fewer tables and crossing guard.

Leon found checks in check drawer pushed in the back. Fiduciaries of money. Please be careful.

President meeting. Mark Langford and Lekita attended. Mark commented that cost of shrine from 39 to 79 million. No one seems to know why. Finance committee in charge of oversight.

Lekita said gross negligence is now apparent.

Youth workers protection program

His eminence recommends that each parish donate to ecocabins for diakonia center.. asks that we purchase candles. Lily endowment talks about burdens on priests.
Thank Mark and Lekita for their attendance.

Old Business:

Valas property: Appraisal to be done by 3/29/18. Will report. Vallas family aware that we would like to purchase.

Jim allen 1932, 1937 100000 and 220000 for rental house. Sydney ran comps and dicussed with. 1932 is .5 acres and he thinks we should counter fo r250000. Counter at 150000. No due diligence. Offer firm. Connone

Is long term strategy to sell other side of French Dr. Father Paul not in negotiation to discus French Drive.

Dwight has been going above and beyond his duty with construction project. Recommend bonus for Dwight.

Motion to give Dwight a \$500 bonus Sydney. JmRl second. Motion carried.

Purchs ladder needed.Cost 250.

New Business:

Adjournment: John Demos.. 2055.

Closing Prayer: Father Paul Christy.