

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Raleigh
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Call to Order: President Mark Langford called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Father Paul led us in prayer.

Members Present: with Father Paul; Mark Langford, Penny Gallins, Greg Delage, Meg Economy, Toulia Capetanos, John Fakiris, Nik Kamilaris, George Kapetanakis, Connie Kledaras, Helen Perros, Risa Poniros, Foti Fotiu and Frances Mathes.

Members Absent: David Ford and Evan Bundros.

Special Guest Chuck Paterno spoke to us again, to clarify issues to the traffic plan affecting French Drive and the construction of Litchfield Downs Road that impacts the right-of-way easement owned by Holy Trinity. We understand his request to be for HT to grant the requested right-of-way to the city to enable construction of the roadway to move forward. Mr. Paterno offered that their company would be willing to make a corporate donation to Holy Trinity estimated at \$1,000.00. Open discussion followed on working with the city, the issue of interconnectivity, being good neighbors, as well as potential changes with traffic signals off Lead Mine Road at another location. We agreed that the CC building oversight committee should be our representatives with the city to address this issue. Penny will take any questions from the PC back to them.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the October 9th, 2013 Parish Council Meeting was made by Connie, seconded by Foti. All approved, motion carried.

Treasurers Report: George Kapetanakis reported on the financial status for October 2013 in David's absence. See the attached financial report. There was some discussion on line items. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Nik, seconded by Connie. All approved, motion carried.

Parish Business:

- a) **Stewardship Sunday** topic was introduced by Mark, date to be Nov. 24th. We all need to be present that Sunday if possible, to present our pledge forms to Father Paul in a ceremony following the Liturgy.
- b) **President's Meeting** held in Atlanta November 9th was reported on by George Kapetanakis. He and Kathy had a great experience, which included an in-depth discussion on parish financials and operations. They also learned of the difficulty in bringing new priests into communities, because so many parishes are struggling to find funds for the salaries.
- c) **Audio System** repairs/improvements topic brought forward by Nik Kamilaris. The main issue we have is that the equipment in place is so old.

He presented three proposals, but let us know we do not have to replace the speakers, saving about \$6,000.00 overall. He questioned the vendors if the new components could be moved to the new sanctuary, and we can indeed do this. His recommendation would be to go with AVCON, at an estimated cost of \$15,000.00. Some discussion followed. Frances made a motion that we accept the AVCON proposal at full amount of \$21,621.95, seconded by Toula. Nik explained the satisfaction both he and Chris felt with the discussion with AVCON. They have provided audio systems to DBAP, Cary Performing Arts Center, SAS, Cisco, AICPA, Progress Energy, Apex United Methodist, Hayes Barton UM, St. Francis Assisi, Hope Lutheran, and Farmington Heights. George requested that we do not move forward with this work until the electrical audit is completed. We tabled the decision until completion of the electrical audit. Penny mentioned that we still have \$103,000.00 in reserve from last year's Festival, that is available to be used for capital improvements such as this. Nik made a motion that we allow him to commit to doing business with AVCON, with final numbers still to be determined. Helen seconded the motion. Majority approved, motion carried.

- d) **Dove's Nest** topic introduced by Mark regarding a recent request to increase the monthly rates, but we have to abide by our budgeted amount of \$27,500.00.
- e) **December Parish Council Meeting** plans were brought up by Mark, which will include outgoing and incoming board members. He distributed a refreshment list to the group.

Comments by Father Paul: Father expressed his appreciation for the great parish attendance last week at the Tsar's Cabinet. He also mentioned the bulletin sponsorship, and asked for an opinion on where to use the funds, such as the memorial fund or the Capital Campaign. Some discussion followed. Connie suggested we leave this to Father Paul's discretion, and all agreed.

Old Business:

- a) Toula reminded us that the Dessert & Dance Party tickets will go on sale on the 24th, and asked for volunteers to help her. Toula made a motion that 10% of the proceeds are earmarked specifically to "Save a Mission Priest." Motion seconded by Meg. Some discussion followed. Majority approved, motion carried.
- b) **Insurance Policies for Holy Trinity** discussed briefly by John, and he requested we schedule a special meeting to discuss the coverage with Michael.
- c) **New Chairs for the Fellowship Hall** revisited by Meg. They are to be ready for delivery in two weeks. We need to assure that the old chairs be removed quickly to not interfere with the bake sale.

New Business:

- a) George mentioned the decrepit sidewalk around the building. The sidewalk, railings and steps to the front parking lot are not compliant and need to be repaired. Nik will find one of the orange cones and site it at the steps to alert people to the danger. Toula added the issue with the uneven surface in the lower parking lot.
- b) Nik asked if we have the ability to vote on expenditures by e-mail. Some discussion followed.
- c) Toula requested the Parish Council take a lead in providing an Artoclasia/coffee hour to memorialize veterans next year, and on Memorial Day. Connie made this into a motion, seconded by Toula. All approved, motion carried.
- d) Toula also encouraged everyone to come support GOYA basketball games.
- e) Nik asked that we add booklets in the pews in Greek & English for the Memorial Service and the Blessing of the Five Loaves Service. He has talked to Kelly about making these, and it could be paid for by the Memorial Fund.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:00pm by Risa.

Father Paul led us in a closing prayer.

**Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11,
2013**