

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Raleigh
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Call to Order: President Mark Langford called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Father Paul led us in prayer. The group was invited to help themselves to refreshments prior to the start of business.

Members Present: with Father Paul; Mark Langford, Penny Gallins, Evan Bundros, Meg Economy, Toulia Capetanos, John Fakiris, Nik Kamilaris, Greg Delage, George Kapetanakis, Helen Perros, Risa Poniros, Foti Fotiu, and Frances Mathes. New board members present included: George Pappas, Joanna Biliouris, Harry Nicholas and Sophia Myers.

Members Absent: David Ford, Connie Kledaras, Katarina Knezevic and Frank Nixon.

President Mark Langford welcomed the new PC members to the meeting. He introduced special guest Elissa Xouris, who presented the council with her published project "A book of Reflections" of Holy Trinity. She will generously present 40 copies of the books to the church, with proceeds to go to the Capital Campaign.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the November 13th, 2013 Parish Council Meeting was made by Nik, seconded by Foti. All approved, motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Mark reported briefly in David's absence, on the financial status for November 2013. 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 Helen. All approved, motion carried.

Parish Business:

- a) **French Drive** development issues were restated by Mark, with a request for the future PC to stay involved in the process and decision-making regarding this issue. George Pappas reported on negotiations with the city to date.
- b) **PC Workshop** plans were outlined by Nik, including an outline for having a workshop one Saturday in January. This would include overviews on budgeting and best operating practices, as well as an opportunity to get to know each other. Mark will cover financials, and Father will lead us with Liturgical practices and support.
- c) **Choir** changes in the works were introduced by Risa, with an update on Connie's health situation and request for our prayers for him. Risa gave an overview on the choir situation regarding Tony Tompson's recent resignation. We need to hire another organist, preferably within 60 days.

Line item budgeted now is \$10,800 annually, which is not adequate for the work required. Risa offered to chair a search committee, and Elia and Meg volunteered to serve on the committee as well, with Father's input. Some discussion followed on flexibility of the PC to adjust budgeted items. Risa's suggestion would put this in a range between \$18-23,000 part time salary for choir organist/assistant. Toula asked about music interns who might be available from Holy Cross, but Father said there is not a music major program currently. Father shared that he would prefer regular choir rehearsals, to be part of this job description in support of Elia. Toula also suggested searching on Craig's List. Elia's intention will be to continue as our choir director without salary, as part of his stewardship commitment to Holy Trinity.

- d) Update on New Chairs for Fellowship Hall** provided by Mark, sharing that they take up more storage space than we had anticipated. He suggested relocating one of the storage racks either to the basement or the multi-purpose room. Some discussion on location of basketball goals for storage. Nik asked that we might all contribute for a monetary Christmas gift for Dwight, who contributed extra effort loading in the racks and chairs.

Comments by Father Paul: Father expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Mark for staying on as PC President through this most difficult transition year.

Old Business:

- a)** Toula reminded us that people are continuing to park in the circle drive unnecessarily, and asked that we restate this in the Sunday bulletin. She also spoke on the community business directory progress. Her deadline for entry will be the end of January. She also reminded us to purchase tickets for the Spring Dessert & Dance event for February 1st, with some wine and beer donated from the Festival. She will give us an update in January. Meg volunteered to sell tickets on the 15th, and Mark & Helen will sell on the 22nd.
- b)** John reported on the insurance meeting with Michael LaSorsa, with three items highlighted for attention in the coming year. 1) Medical coverage, 2) Festival coverage and 3) the Pre-School relationship with Holy Trinity, that it a) become a separate legal entity with its own insurance, or b) become a formal ministry of Holy Trinity. Some discussion followed. John recommended we schedule another meeting with Michael to refine the coverage at his suggestions.
- c)** Evan brought up the issue we have in the hallway with west-facing windows and sun damage to the cork floor. He had several quotes on sun protection films to be installed on the windows, and he suggested the exterior treatment would be a good option at that location. Cost range is between \$1,200-2,000. Meg made a motion that we authorize Evan to hire the work be done to apply the protective film for not more than \$2,000 cost, seconded by Helen. All in favor, motion carried.

- d) Risa brought up the issue of the loading block which has been blocking the back sidewalk for several weeks. She also asked about the status of the sound system improvements, which are waiting on the electrical audit to be completed before beginning this work. Jim Klemes will report on the audit to the January PC meeting.

New Business:

- a) Toulia asked when the schedule for next year's PC meetings will be available, and Mark said it would be emailed next week. Some discussion followed on the exterminator contract. The fire alarm in the choir loft needs the battery replaced. Did we have recent issues with the website? It is currently being updated due to Archdiocese directives. Several issues were mentioned, including ministries. St. Anthony's New Year's Eve brunch scheduled in the multi-purpose room, with Vasilopita.
- b) Father let us know that Annie Palles had gold-plated the cross over the royal doors. He also asked about adjusting the thermostats. He wants to go to the Winter Youth Rally, but cannot find a substitute priest. Nik suggested he contact Fr. Gregory from Charlotte.

Final thoughts from the current PC for the new members included remarks around the table, from retiring members speaking to new members. Positive discussion followed on working together, planning workable budgets, positive diversity and overall understanding of the working of our church and services. Particular thanks were expressed to Mark, Penny, the officers and to Father Paul on his excellent leadership.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:50pm by Toulia.

Father Paul led us in a closing prayer.

Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2013