

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Call to Order: Vice President Penny Gallins called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Fr. Paul led us in Prayer.

Members Present: Fr. Paul Christy, John Fakiris, Foti Fotiou, Penny Gallins, George Kapetanakis, Toulia Capetanos, Frances Mathes, Nik Kamilaris, Meg Economy, David Ford, Helen Perros, and Dr. Connie Kledaras.

Members Absent: Dr. Risa Poniros, Mark Langford, Evan Bundros, and Greg Delage.

Treasurer's Report: David reported on attached financials. Financials for August look positive, down just around \$3,000 for the month. That leaves us in excellent shape going into the fall. Stewardship update presented too, with strong support from parish in pledges as well as donations. A question from George K followed on insurance cost comparison, with some discussion. David will provide a cost comparison at the October meeting. George also requested that Michael LaSorsa attend the meeting to explain the coverage. Some discussion on Sunday School line item amount, comparing expenses from last year and the current year. David reported that the budget committee will meet again prior to the October 9th PC meeting, to give us a budget to review prior to presenting to the GA in November. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Nik, and seconded by Connie. All approved, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion was made that Kathy Kapetanakis's name be listed under the drapery project for the copier room. Also a final note was added under new business. Fr. Paul wanted to add his statement of concern regarding money spent on refurbishing the basement for Sunday School use. A motion to approve the amended PC meeting minutes for August 13th was made by Connie, seconded by Nik. All approved, motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. French Drive discussion: Jill Stark was introduced, to speak as transportation planner for North Carolina and Holy Trinity parish member. She expressed concern regarding the French Drive project and its impact to our parish property. She recently spoke to the developer, and has represented us in email dialog with them. She suggested we 1) look at how the potential traffic pattern changes might affect our property, and 2) whether we might choose to donate the right-of-way. She suggested we have the right to ask the developer for an appraisal of the land use, and the potential changes to our parking lot (such as re-striping, other design changes). The appraiser would provide an estimate on fair market value for the land, and we could then decide if this is what we want for the parish. Some discussion followed on the developer's presentation and assumptions. George asked Jill's advice regarding who we should speak with from the city of Raleigh. She offered to set up a meeting with the city's representative for us. John F presented three options we might choose for the parish, and asked for an opinion from the PC on the best option, with some discussion. Frances questioned how far the developer can go before we have to address this issue (not far, since he doesn't own the land). Jill expressed her support in a role as concerned citizen, and we discussed the role of the developer in the negotiations. She will copy Fr. Paul on email communications with him, as well as the NCDOT communications.

b. Fall General Assembly, regarding disposition of Tooze funds: Date is set for next General Assembly Nov. 3rd. Regarding the disposition of the Tooze funds, Nik suggested we make a collective decision as PC to present our recommendation for approval of the GA. George asked for Father's direction, for our discussion. Fr. Paul shared his thoughts that we should be of one mind on this recommendation. He said that initially he thought we should hold some percentage in reserve, but that he has changed his mind. His top priority is to have parish harmony, as well as moving forward toward realizing a new sanctuary for the parish. He thinks we should place the full amount in the Capital Campaign. Round-table discussion followed, including a suggestion by George that we hold \$20,000 in reserve for the parish house, which currently generates at least \$10,000 income per year for the parish. We discussed the importance of moving forward with the Capital Campaign, as

well as willingness by the campaign executive committee to adjust expectations (group meeting next week to simplify some of the original building plan). Some discussion followed regarding a donor wall in the new sanctuary, as well as concern about site for new sanctuary adjacent to Lead Mine Road, and plumbing up the grade. Penny will bring up these points in the executive committee meeting. Based upon the budget meeting discussion, it was suggested we make a reserve/maintenance commitment, from \$20,000-40,000, and some discussion followed. We discussed the appropriateness of making a donation to the national Philoptochos board in Athena's honor, and discussed a common theme heard from the parish about building a youth center. Father Paul asked if we are all in accord. Connie made a motion that we move forward with recommending to the General Assembly that we dedicate 100% of Tooze funds to Capital Campaign, seconded by Foti. All approved, motion passed.

c. Accuracy of deposits: Penny reiterated how important it is we copy all the checks, and be extra careful with counting. She also noted urgency when on duty, taking care to lock all the doors, particularly with ministry chairs. Nik will include a bold reference to upcoming communications with ministry chairs as well.

d. First Aid: Frances spoke to the need to support emergencies in our facility. She has spoken with our parish physicians regarding what we should have on hand. She has assembled a new first-aid kit including medicines, which will be in the first-aid drawer in the candle stand. She suggests we have first-aid/cpr training session for PC members and any other parishioners who want to come, and to do this at the time new PC members come on board. Nik suggested we need to get a new wheelchair as well, and possibly a folding bench or reclining wheelchair.

e. Audio System in sanctuary: Nik spoke to the urgent need for upgrades to the audio system in the sanctuary. He requested an audio audit of what we have. Based on that information, his recommendation is that we allocate \$12,000 to make the needed repairs to the audio system. We will solicit three competitive bids. Additionally, the components could be transferred to the new sanctuary when the time comes. George suggested we get the bids and then decide how much to allocate. George made a motion to table a motion on this item until the October PC meeting, when Nik will present three quotes for the work. Motion seconded by Connie. Majority approved to delay.

f. Replacing chairs in hall: Several items presented, by Meg and Nik. Some comments followed. Foti offered to purchase a comparable chair available from Costco at lower cost, to try out, and all approved this.

g. General Assembly date: Nov. 3rd: we will discuss agenda items at next month's PC meeting.

Comments: Fr. Paul shared Thurs., October 3rd for kick-off of Tsar's exhibit, with parish private showing scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 7th. Sat., Sept. 14th is Holy Cross service, and next Tuesday is the beginning of fall study class, to continue Tuesdays at 6:30pm through December.

Old Business: George mentioned that PC members last Sunday thought the proposed rooms would be small and perhaps one larger Sunday School room in the basement should be considered. We need to clarify this with Betsy at October PC meeting. Nik spoke to loading the festival trailer more efficiently following the festival. Toula asked about festival update: trucks are scheduled to be loaded on Tuesday, Wed. unloading, Thursday is placement, Friday is set-up, and we're good to go. Some discussion ensued regarding PC duty that Sunday. Foti requested our help with baking to begin this Sunday after Liturgy. As well as moving things from freezer to frig. Nik touched on ministries communication and the need to build the accurate calendar for 2014.

New Business: Toula mentioned a request for a parish business directory, and offered to organize it. It would be for parishioners' use only, and provided electronically. Nik brought our consideration to potential needs for salary increases, that PC members should give suggestions to David before next PC meeting.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Connie.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul led us in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Economy

Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2013