

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2012

Call to Order: President Mark Langford called the meeting to order. Father Paul chanted a prayer commemorating the Transfiguration.

Members Present: Toula Capetanos, John Demos, Jimmy Ellison, John Fakiris, David Ford, Fotis Fotiu, Penny Gallins, Eve Kantner, Jim Klemes, Leon Kythas, Mark Langford, George Pappas, Helen Perros.

Members Absent: Evan Bundros, Don McEnteer.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by David Ford and seconded by Toula Capetanos. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Eve Kantner for Don McEnteer:

- Total revenues for July were \$34,810 compared to \$26,065 for June. Budgeted monthly rev. is \$42K. Stewardship was \$32K, \$2K short of the budgeted amt. Operating expenses were \$42,562. Net loss for July was (\$7,751).
- YTD, we have spent 60% of our expense budget and collected 53% of our revenue budget.
- YTD revenue at \$267,453 was unfavorable to budget by \$26K, but favorable to 2011 by \$48K.
- YTD expenses at \$304,069 were unfavorable to budget by \$10K and to 2011 by \$123K (irreg. priests' salaries till June 2011).
- Net income is unfavorable to budget by \$36K.
- Operating Checking Acct. at \$36,846 lags behind prior years and is down \$11K from June.
- Capital Campaign Acct. has \$1,688,400 (up \$99.7K from June); Fest. Acct. has \$61,394 (up \$4K from June: vendor deposits); Prop. & Fac. Maint. Fund has \$12,295 (consistent with prior months); Memorial Fund has \$32,971 (unchanged from June).

John Demos noted that revenue is way ahead of last year and said last Sunday's stewardship income was good. We are weathering the summer. Fotis Fotiu asked about Archdiocese Support. It was increased this year and it remains above budget after a slight reduction was granted. David Ford made a motion, seconded by John Demos, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. AHEPA: Fotis Fotiu said he had the pleasure of attending the AHEPA Convention in Las Vegas, July 22-27. It celebrated AHEPA's 90th Anniversary and had 920 attendees including Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, lawyers, doctors and CEOs. The presentations were excellent. Supreme President John Grossomanides said AHEPA will promote Foti's book *Constantinople* and Foti will donate the profits to the AHEPA Scholarship Fund. AHEPA is progressing in scholarships, charitable foundations and the political arena. It has raised \$150,000 for the Apostoli Mission that feeds the poor in Greece daily; its National Housing

Corporation provides affordable housing for low-income elderly and disabled people in 22 USA states (close to 4,000 apartments are in use); its Cooley's Anemia Foundation helps fight this fatal genetic blood disorder aka thalassemia; its Bone Marrow Registry recruits donors; and it supports ThanksUSA that helps families of soldiers serving overseas. Also, its Political Action Committee (PAC) has 128 members of Congress organized as a Greek caucus. (The Turkish equivalent is 160.) The AHEPA president met with the Turkish prime minister in Ankara and talked about the Halki School. Our local Sir Walter Raleigh Chapter is one of the oldest but needs new members. Foti has been energized and challenges all PC men who are not yet members to join. Fr. Paul is an AHEPAn. Membership is \$65. George Pappas asked for an information session. Toula said Harry Nichols has a PowerPoint of AHEPA's history. Penny Gallins remembers AHEPA's good parties!

b. Rental of Church Hall: Mark said St. Barbara's wants to rent our hall for stand-up comedian Basile on Saturday, Dec. 1. Should we charge them as per our policy (\$75 per hour and \$250 for the kitchen) or make an exception? There was consensus that we should not charge them because we see them as family.

c. Stewardship: John Demos said that we have received 257 pledges so far for a pledged amount of \$331,078. This puts our average pledge amount at \$1,288, which is very good. The Stewardship survey is ready. As John Fakiris suggested at the last meeting, we're putting it in the August Newsletter as well as online. We want to give people a voice. We will have one more Stewardship Catch-up this year. The Chilling & Grilling was fantastic. About 50 people attended, the food was good, and the fellowship even better. It was great to see new faces, like the couple that moved back to the area and other younger people, there. Debbie Moose gave the event another write-up on her blog. Next year we will have it early in the summer close to Pentecost.

d. Capital Campaign update: Penny Gallins said that last Thursday Angela Georgallis, who is a professional fundraiser, gave a training session to Leon Kythas and others who have volunteered to call parishioners who have not yet made a Capital Campaign pledge. Also, as we saw in the Treasurer's Rept., almost \$100K came into the Capital Campaign Acct. last month.

e. Scholarship Announcements: Mark suggested, and the Parish Council agreed, that we should not announce a scholarship winner before the sponsors provide the money. It was also suggested that, in addition to Bulletin announcements about Scholarship applications, a reminder be sent ahead of time to the sponsors.

f. Repairs/Maintenance: Jim Klemes said he and Jimmy Ellison have given two projects priority. 1. The culvert under French Dr. needs urgent attention because it's falling apart and may collapse under the weight of our Festival trucks. Chris Pappas, whose hard work for our church isn't fully appreciated, is taking on this project. 2. The chandeliers have been pulsating because they have too much current. Replacing the 140 bulbs isn't feasible because they cost \$25 each. A dimmer module that conditions the current should solve the problem. It costs \$1,000 and will be installed in the choir loft the week of Aug. 13 by an electrical contractor we've worked with before. They might not charge us for the labor. A question that we need to address is: should they also do an electrical survey? We have breakers that have never been tested. A discussion followed. An electrical survey simply checks the breakers and would cost just the labor; an electrical audit would cost \$10-15K. It was agreed that we should have the electrical survey done now. Elaine Stoner has been very helpful. Toula noted

that the ceiling was leaking in the Sunday School corridor. Jim Ellison asked if the tree adjacent to the church has been cut down. Mark said he will contact Brian Swartz if needs be.

Comments/services/events/other: Father Paul said:

- Keeping to the same theme, the light outside the window in the apse has gone out. (Mark said Harry Costa could help with this.)
- Also, there's feedback from the sound system. (After some discussion, George Pappas said he would ask Achilles to check it.)
- If the Library doesn't have a name (it doesn't), Father would like to name it "The Three Hierarchs". He will ask if any anyone in the congregation would like to donate an icon of the same for the Library. We will have a small dedication service.
- Father would like to use LISTSERV to send out a reminder about the bone marrow donor drive on Sunday, Aug. 19.
- After the meeting, he will administer the Parish Council Oath of Office to anyone who hasn't taken it yet.
- Our 75th Anniversary celebration will take place on Sunday Oct. 21 after the Divine Liturgy. Fotis and Theresa Fotiu will prepare a brunch. A DVD about our Capital Campaign will be shown. Please speak to Father if you would like to help.

Old Business:

- a. Toula said that Philoptochos's Second Annual Health Fair on Saturday Aug. 11, 10-2pm, will have 25 exhibitors including the Rex Hospital Burn Center, Pretty in Pink, several chiropractors, line dance lessons etc. Many are repeats from last year.
- b. Toula said that St. Anthony's Seniors Group (60 years and above) are meeting this Saturday at 3:30 pm for a Lenten potluck and movie.
- c. Toula has received the box encasing the consecration kit found in the altar. It is beautifully done. Our thanks to the Memorial Fund. Discussion followed about where to put it. It was agreed it should be stored in Father's office.

New Business:

- a. John Demos said kudos to the GOYAns John Klemes, Adaira and Genna Brewer and Ian Hixson who were on duty with the Parish Council on Sunday. They were phenomenally helpful. Kudos to them, their families, and advisors.
- b. David Ford said that it had come to his attention through the ByLaws Committee that we've been inconsistent regarding our church's name. In our bank accounts and property records, we appear as Greek Orthodox Community, Inc. of Raleigh, but elsewhere we call ourselves Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The NC Secretary of State requires a registered agent, but ours may have passed away 20 years ago. John Demos said he would be happy to fill this role.
- c. Mark said that Father Paul is very pleased with the job Betsy Higgins has done clearing stuff out of the classrooms. He's been working with her on the Sunday School curriculum, providing sample lesson plans as well as readings. It will be very positive for our Sunday School. Toula said Jerry Clonaris of Charlotte periodically holds Sunday School workshops.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by David Ford, seconded by Jim Klemes.

Closing prayer: Father Paul led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Perros