

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Minutes
Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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

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

Members Absent: Evan Bundros, George Pappas.

Mark read a note from Sydney Langford thanking the Parish Council on behalf of the Ladies Philoptochos for painting the wall at the church entrance in time for the Holiday Café. Many thanks to Jimmy Elliason and the committee who did this work.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Penny Gallins and seconded by Fotis Fotiu. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Don McEnteer reported:

- Total revenues for October were \$35,666 (including \$5,600 for the 75th Anniversary) compared to \$40,063 for Oct. 2011. Budgeted mthly rev. is \$42K; YTD actual mthly average is \$37,325. Stewardship for Oct. was \$25K, \$9K under budgeted amt. of \$34K; YTD actual mthly average is \$32K. Total operating expenses for Oct. were \$52,293: additional costs included candles, Sunday School, and the 75th. Budgeted mthly expenses are \$42K; YTD actual mthly are \$44K. Net loss for Oct. \$(16,627).
- YTD revenue at \$373,251 was unfavorable to budget by \$(47K), but favorable to 2011 by \$24K.
- YTD expenses at \$441,852 were unfavorable to budget by \$(21K) and to 2011 by \$(83K). (Irreg. priests' salaries till June 2011).
- YTD Net income is unfavorable to budget by \$(68K).
- Operating Checking Acct. has \$192,296, but actual operating cash is \$12,367 (after transfers of \$177K to Festival Acct., \$2,521 to Cap. Camp., and \$408 to Memorial Fund); Capital Campaign Acct. has \$1,697,351; Fest. Acct. has \$25,444 (the \$177K+/- transfer from Operating Checking Acct. pending); Prop. & Fac. Maint. Fund has \$8,015 (\$1,660 was spent in Oct. on electrical work and retaining wall); Memorial Fund has \$32,361.
- Projected end-of-year cash balance: \$23,867; projected net loss for 2012: \$(57K).

Don said the money will be transferred to Festival Acct. this week. Betsy Higgins has spent \$6-7K on the Sunday School curriculum and furniture and has gone over budget. Maybe the Pre-school and Greek School, which use the same rooms, can help fund some of the costs. Toula Capetanos made a motion, seconded by John Demos, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. Stewardship update: John Demos said we now have 281 pledging families and \$344,268 in pledges, the avg. pledge being \$1,225.16. In 2011, we had 267 pledges and \$314,548 in

pledges, the avg. pledge being \$1,178.80. We have increased the number of pledges by 14, and the amt. pledged by \$30K, a 9% increase. John is extraordinarily encouraged. However, people are putting less cash in the tray. At Sunday's Stewardship Kick-Off, the Parish Council will submit their pledges at the altar. 2013's theme is 100% participation. In the past, we tended to view Stewardship simply in terms of meeting the annual budget. We will now emphasize total involvement and giving back to God in multiple ways: attending services, receiving sacraments, fasting, volunteering. We will also ask for another 10% increase. In response to Toula Capetanos' question about the percentage of pledging families, John said that the highest number of pledges ever was 325. This year's 281 is 86% of that. Our goal is to return to that high, 300 being a landmark on the way. Mark said John and his committee should be proud and he thanked him for his good leadership.

b. Repairs & Maintenance: Jim Klemes, speaking for himself and Jimmy Elliason, gave PC members a spreadsheet of Facilities Maintenance at Holy Trinity from 2009 to present. 2012 was an expensive year. We spent over \$60,500 on repairs & renovations on the following: parish house; walk-in cooler compressor; security cameras; Narthex; church roof; sound system; electrical breaker panels in storage room and Fellowship Hall; electrical wiring for chandeliers; AC in Fellowship Hall. PC members also fixed the retaining wall on Lead Mine and power-washed and painted church exterior. Remaining items ahead are: resurface the parking area; paint Fellowship Hall; paint sanctuary; refinish pews; and repair culvert. Mark thanked Jim and Jimmy.

c. PC Elections: Mark said that Jimmy Elliason, Jim Klemes and George Pappas are not eligible to run. Toula Capetanos is running for a second term, but John Demos, Eve Kantner, Leon Kythas and Don McEnteer are not. As of now, Greg Delage, Meg Economy, Nik Kamilaris and George Kapetanakis are also running.

d. November General Assembly: Mark said we should support Don when he gets questions about the budget. It's a question of stewardship: we should be able to raise \$500K in revenues. We are a very active parish: we've had over 250 services this year already. John Fakiris said we if we decide not to have a second priest after Fr. Michael is assigned, we should let the Metropolitan know beforehand. Penny said we have yet to decide whether that is our long-term goal. We decided years ago to have an assistant priest and it would take another General Assembly to reverse that decision.

e. Alyssa Xouris (Gold Award Program): see below.

Comments/services/events/other: Father Paul said: Everything I said last month about the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is still true. I'm curious to see how this Sunday goes. I commend you, John (Fakiris), for saying what you think and for speaking with good intent. I respect that. We must not think the Lord is indifferent to our struggles. He is invested in His Church. He looks favorably on us when we faithfully put forth our best efforts. Mark thanked Father and said this is a very healthy parish. We have a successful annual Festival, our Capital Campaign is making progress, and we've no debt. There are parishes that would love to be in our position.

Old Business:

- Toula said that March 16, 7-11:30 p.m., is when the Dessert & Dance event will be. The Nick Trevelis Band is playing. Tickets will be on sale from the end of Dec. to March 10: \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. There will be a cash wine-and-beer bar. She is asking people to donate the desserts and drinks and is contacting the other Greek Orthodox communities. It's all about fellowship and family.

- Fotis Fotiu said that we should attend St. Barbara's fundraiser featuring Basile here at Holy Trinity on Saturday, Dec. 1.
- Mark said that we need to send Kelly to the ServSafe Certification class. It will take three days and costs about \$200. If we don't, points will be taken off of our Health Permit. Please review the recent Health Inspection list that he sent us (Nov. 2).

New Business:

- Mark said PC who are on duty should make sure to have someone open the safe and to include whatever is in there in the deposit. You don't have to photocopy checks that are not tax-deductible (e.g. for a dance). The checks for a second tray should be photocopied.

Alyssa Xouris (Gold Award Project): Alyssa said she's 16 and a junior in High School. Her family moved here from NJ less than two years ago. Getting involved in Holy Trinity was one the best things about moving here. She's been in Girl Scouts since she was five, has earned her Bronze and Silver Medals, and is now going for the Gold Award, the equivalent of the Eagle Award in Boys Scouts. She wants to produce a 60-page book for the parish. It will contain interviews, stories, and pictures. It will document the meaning of this church and the old one. With plans to build a new one, we don't want to let old memories die. It will involve adults, children, teenagers and the elderly. It's more than a project. It's about capturing the family environment and warm welcome she got from GOYA when she arrived at age 14. She's starting in a month and needs our help with interviews and pictures. Toula is advising Alyssa: she will help her gather material and will bring her (and anyone else who is interested) to the old church and to the old section of Oakwood cemetery where parishioners are buried. They plan to publish and sell the book, donating the money to the Capital Campaign. Fr. Michael said that John Compos took Fr. Paul and himself to see the old church, now the Raleigh Rescue Mission. Mark and Penny said Jason Kekas and John Riley have a lot of visual material. John Compos is another resource, as is the book on Holy Trinity that was published in 1987. Fr. Paul is lending Alyssa a book that should also be helpful. Several PC members said this is a fantastic project and that Alyssa's enthusiasm is very encouraging.

New Business (cont.):

- John Demos said that Bishop-Elect Gregory send his regards, as do Fr. Paul & Pres. Evi, Fr. Christodoulos, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and Fr. Nick Triantafilou. He saw them all when he was at the Archangel Michael Awards in Atlanta. Toula also attended and took lots of pictures.
- Mark said that the new PC members will be present for our last meeting of the year on Dec. 11. It will be in the multi-purpose room and we will bring refreshments.
- Fr. Michael said he was at OCF in NCSU tonight and there was a good turnout. The Thanksgiving dinner will be here on Thursday. Foti & Theresa, Katerina Knezevic, Harry Costa, Nik Kamilaris and others are cooking it. The plans for going to Honduras in March are moving along. John Mahfouz at OCF HQ is going too. We are looking for sponsors. Mark said that Fr. Michael is doing a great job putting this trip together and that it's exciting stuff.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by John Demos, seconded by Don McEnteer.

Closing prayer: Father Paul and Fr. Michael led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Perros