

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

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

Members Present: Evan Bundros, Toula Capetanos, John Demos, John Fakiris, David Ford, Penny Gallins, Eve Kantner, Leon Kythas, Mark Langford, Don McEnteer, George Pappas, Helen Perros.

Members Absent: Jimmy Ellison, Fotis Fotiu, Jim Klemes.

Mark read a letter from Father Michael expressing his thanks for the gift Holy Trinity gave him of Lenten vestments, saying they are of high quality and beauty and a joy to wear and serve in.

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

Treasurer's Report: Don McEnteer:

- February was strong. Total revenues, budgeted at \$42K, were \$54,180, compared to \$37,215 for Jan. and \$31,510 for Feb. 2011. Stewardship, budgeted at \$34K, was \$50K. Operating expenses were \$43,191, slightly over budget due to the candles purchase.
- YTD revenues at \$91,395 were favorable to budget by \$7.4K and to 2011 by \$18.6K.
- YTD expenses at \$84,420 were unfavorable to budget by \$437 and to 2011 by \$35K because of irregular priests' salaries till June that year.
- Net income is favorable to budget by \$6,975, but unfavorable to 2011 because of salaries noted above.
- Operating Checking Acct. at \$ 75,235 is down compared to 2011 but up \$11K over prior month.
- Capital Campaign Fund has \$1,520,505 (up \$11K from Jan. and up 48% from Feb. last year); Fest. Acct. has \$91,600 (50K moved to Capital Campaign); Prop. & Fac. Maint. Fund has \$12,646 (\$3K spent on French Dr.); Memorial Fund has \$36,374 (down \$2K from Jan. with purchase of Holy Week books and down pmt for Resurrection Banner).

There was a discussion about bank and credit card fees. Leon Kythas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Eve Kantner. Motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. Stewardship: John Demos reported that as of the end of February we have 208 pledges for a total of \$293,899, the average pledge being \$1,413. This compares well with Feb. 2011 when we had 187 pledges for \$243,098 and an average pledge of \$1,300. Actual collection as of the end of February has brought in \$84K

compared to \$65K in 2011. We have to go back to 2007 for the next highest amt.: \$77K. The Parish Council congratulated John on his successful work.

b. Capital Campaign: George Pappas reported that there was a 2-hour Capital Campaign meeting recently and that there's a whole committee structure now in place. The different committees' missions and members are listed in the February 2012 Newsletter. We all feel very positive and are moving forward with a strong plan and program and with agreement in the community. We have \$3M in pledges and \$1.5M in the bank. Penny Gallins, chair of the Capital Campaign Sub-Committee, noted that \$500K came in last year without us doing anything. Things can only improve now that we are becoming active again and have Fr. Paul on board. There will be a mailing a week after Easter with phone calls and presentations. The 75th Anniversary of our Church is on October 20, 2013. Our goal is to celebrate it with a groundbreaking and party. Toula said the CC chart in the foyer should be updated. George said he is working on a new updated look.

c. Maintenance Backup: Penny Gallins said that there have been several maintenance problems recently, including grease trap, freezer and plumbing ones. We have a list of good service providers, but we also need to have a maintenance go-to person, preferably on the Parish Council, who can keep an eye on the work being done and report back to the Parish Council. Evan Bundros said that work prevents him from taking on this role but he would help with HVAC and related issues.

d. GOYA – Youth Sundays: Mark, speaking for Jim Klemes, said there were too many GOYAns on duty a couple of Sundays ago, far more than was needed. Jim suggests having 2 GOYAns every Sunday and 2 ambassadors. After a discussion, the Parish Council consensus was that 4 GOYAns should be scheduled to serve once a month with their names listed in the Bulletin along with the 2 ambassadors. Mark will talk to Maria Hicks about this.

e. Fundraisers/Scholarships: Mark reported that somebody wanted to do a wine-tasting fundraiser for one of the Scholarships, and he asked what the Parish Council thought about this and about fundraisers in general. A discussion followed. There was agreement that we do not approve of the fundraiser in question because scholarships are endowments not fundraisers. There was also agreement that the Parish Council should control fundraisers because it has an overall church perspective that individual ministries don't have. Mark and Penny will work on putting an announcement in the Bulletin to notify parishioners that all fundraisers have to be approved of in advance by the Parish Council.

f. Lenten Potluck, March 21: It's the Parish Council's turn to do the Wednesday Lenten Potluck. Each Parish Council member should bring 2 substantial dishes.

g. Health and Wellness Programs: Toula Capetanos reported that she has been in touch with Weight Watchers about having one for our Parish. She was told that there would have to be 15 people who were committed and was asked if Weight Watchers would have to pay rent. So far, after emailing 240 people, she has had 7 responses, with only 2 or 3 probable commitments. Mark said we might want to wave the rent because Weight Watchers would benefit the community. He also said we should put something in the Bulletin to see if more people want to sign up.

h. Handicapped Parking: Mark said that a parishioner enquired if we could provide additional handicapped parking. There was Parish Council consensus that there should be 2 additional handicapped spaces directly behind the existing ones and

adjacent to the asphalt walkway going through the middle island, and that we turn the parking space in-between and on the opposite side of the island into 2 access aisles for the walkway, giving them diagonal lines. The other 2 handicapped parking spaces should be in the back parking lot. The additions will require new signs and paintwork. Penny will put a reminder in the Bulletin that people should not use handicapped parking without displaying their handicapped sign.

i. **Pascha:** Mark said the schedule for Holy Week will be out soon. This year we are having an Easter Potluck. There will be several buffet table lines with shared dishes in the Fellowship Hall. People should bring a dish for the buffet and can also bring one for their own table. They should bring disposable dishes. Holy Trinity will provide paper plates, cutlery, napkins, tea and juice. People can bring grills and smokers. There will be baskets for donations to help defray the cost of renting the two tents and the tables.

Comments: services/events/other: **Father Paul** asked who was responsible for bay leaves and was told Tamara Costa. He said he would like a platform about a foot high for both Holy Friday and Holy Saturday night. Andrew Laroche passed away early this morning. The visitation will be on Thursday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., with the Trisagion at 6:30. The funeral will be on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Old Business:

- a. **Retired Priests:** Their role was discussed.
- b. **Venerating the icons:** John Fakiris said that the stool before the icon of the Holy Trinity in the narthex flipped over recently when a small child was kneeling on it. The child was shaken, not really hurt, but John will look into how to stabilize this stool and the one before the icon of the Theotokos.
- c. **The Night in Athens Dance, May 5:** Fotis Fotiu is not here to give an update.
- d. **Keys:** Helen asked for an update on keys. Mark said that Marshall's Locksmith Service had fixed the problem of the main church key, but that the standardization of the hallway keys remains a problem.

New Business:

- a. **2013 Dance:** Toula said she would like to chair this and revert to the Dessert & Dance of 2011 but hold it in the Shriners' Club instead of the Fellowship Hall. Penny said we should wait until the summer review of fundraisers before we make a decision, and noted that we will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary in Oct. 2013. Mark said that Toula should ask the Shriners what dates are still available for May.
- b. **OCF: Father Michael** reported on his efforts to energize the NC State Chapter of OCF. Tina Nystrom has been a wonderful coordinator and the Chapter has now a room, but there's a lack of commitment from the students. The best attendance is 8, out of some 15-20 students, but the average attendance is 2, as it was today. Maybe Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. is not the best time to meet. UNC and Duke have more commitment and involvement. Fr. Michael thinks that a trip might encourage participation. He has received the Metropolitan's and Fr. Paul's permission and is thinking of organizing a working retreat at Diakonia Center. Fr. Paul suggested making personal calls. Penny said she would call Meredith and Peace.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by John Demos.
Closing prayer: Father Paul led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Perros