

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Call to Order: President Mark Langford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Father Paul led us in prayer.

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

Members Absent: Eve Kantner, Jim Klemes.

Bell from Person Street Church: John Compos said:

- We have about 20 minutes of film, now in DVD format, of the Groundbreaking of both the Fellowship Hall with Archbishop Iakovos and of the present Sanctuary. Jason Kekas has it now. It would be great, especially for our old timers and their children, if it could be shown during the 75th Anniversary on Oct. 21.
- The cast iron bell from our Person St. Church, which was brought here in 1975, was recently found in a closet, as were its clapper and yoke. (All shown to the PC). The bell was installed in the 1940s, when Fr. Stefanis had it rung during the Gospel. It weighs about 25 lbs. We can hang it from 2x4s for our 75th. If we use it in the new church, we could have it sandblasted and then powder-coated to prevent oxidization. However, since ringing it would crack the powder coat, we should perhaps keep it indoors, which would also solve any potential noise or theft problems. Donors are willing to pay for its makeover prior to Oct. 21, if the PC would like.
- Fr. Michael suggested a parish museum for this and other items such as the old Gospel Book and consecration kit.
- Mark thanked John Compos and asked the Parish Council for ideas.

Fr. Paul said the bell should be part of our 75th Anniversary. It should be seen and heard: it connects us with earlier generations in our Church. The PC consensus was to keep its current aged-look for the Oct. 21 event and decide later whether to sandblast it. Mark said he would ask John about making a temporary mount.

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

Treasurer's Report: Don McEnteer reported:

- Total revenues for August (including French Dr. rent) were \$26,533 compared to \$38,811 for July. Budgeted monthly rev. is \$42K; YTD actual mthly is \$36.7K. Budgeted mthly Stewardship is \$34K; YTD actual mthly is \$31.7K. Total operating expenses for Aug. were \$43,248. Budgeted mthly expenses are \$42K; YTD actual mthly are \$43K. Net loss for Aug. \$(16,715)
- YTD revenue at \$293,987 was unfavorable to budget by \$42K, but favorable to 2011 by \$9K.
- YTD expenses at \$347,317 were unfavorable to budget by \$12K and to 2011 by \$80K (irreg. priests' salaries till June 2011).
- YTD Net income is unfavorable to budget by \$53K.
- Operating Checking Acct. at \$15,181 lags far behind prior years. Capital Campaign Acct. has \$1,693,850 (up \$5K from July); Fest. Acct. has \$48,690 (\$12K expenses in Aug.); Prop. & Fac. Maint. Fund has \$10,684 (\$1,600 spent on Educ. wing); Memorial Fund has \$32,311 (artifact framing; books).

A discussion followed about the dip to \$15K in the Operating Acct. Points made were: We normally have \$50-60K in the bank, but we've had a lot of maintenance this year and some of it came out of this Acct. After the Festival, we can use Festival Acct. for maintenance. The Operating Acct. has increased from \$15K to \$18K since the Treasurer's Report was drawn up. Sunday School's late start this year has had an adverse effect on revenue: it's the lynchpin for church attendance. An earlier start would be better. It used to be once a month during the summer. We are stronger than other parishes because of the Festival. Funds can be transferred if there's a need, but should be paid back. Toula made a motion, seconded by John Demos, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. Independent Contractors vs. Employees: Don said that he has learned that the IRS regards the choir director of a church as a W2 employee, not as a 1099 subcontractor as has been our practice. From the choir director's side, it won't make much difference, but we'll incur expenses by putting him on payroll. If we don't do it and get audited, we'll be in trouble. A discussion followed about the need for compliance. Leon Kythas made a motion, seconded by John Demos, to change the choir director's status to W2 employee for 2013. Motion carried.

b. Stewardship update: John Demos said we've now surpassed previous years' amounts. We currently have 267 pledges for \$334,799, beating 2010's previous high of 287 pledges for \$332,805. In 2011, we had 267 pledges and \$314,548 in pledges. With the start of Sunday School came 7 more pledges. The materials are in for the 2013 Kick-off. We've had a great response to the survey: about 100 so far. There will be a full report after the Sept. 30 due date, but as of now, over 50% regard stewardship as union with Christ and as giving back to the Lord, and 46% as helping meet the budget; 94% like purchasing items in the Hall; and over 80% don't have issues with the church that prevent from them giving more. Fr. Paul will be given the comments made with #10 – they are liturgical. However, one person's comment that they haven't been contacted since falling ill indicates that we need to notify parishioners via email and the Bulletin that if you're ill and want a visitation, you should contact the church. Fr. Paul thanked John. Surveys are important: communication is everything.

c. Update on search for Office Manager: Mark said the Executive Committee read 22 resumes and has narrowed the field to five candidates, all very well qualified. Interviews will begin next week. Penny Gallins, Tamara Costa and another parishioner will do office duty from Rhonda's departure on Sept. 28 until the arrival of her replacement. Don will take care of the accounts. In response to questions, Mark said we advertised on Craigslist; employing two people at lower pay would not work for our church office; and we will recruit some volunteers. For, example, someone

will have to answer the phone when the office manager is doing financial work on the computer we plan to set up in the back.

d. Haven House banquet (Oct. 17th or 18th): Mark said Haven House (that helps kids with problems) is having a professionally catered banquet for the kick-off of a United Way campaign. Deacon Gavriilo has asked if they may use the Hall 5:30-7:30 p.m. on either of those days. The Parish Council consensus is yes, with no charge, preferably on Oct. 17th.

e. Fire Marshal – multi-purpose room: Mark said that the Fire Marshal told Betsy Higgins he thinks that the room is not safe. It has only one exit: the windows are mis-sized and too high from the ground. Also, the room is designated a classroom and has a maximum occupancy of 38 adults. We can't hold Children's Liturgy, dance practice etc. until these matters are resolved. A discussion followed. Mark said he would follow up with Betsy about our options.

f. 75th Anniversary Celebration: Mark said the Oct. 21 event is going to be very nice. The presentation will include Jason Kekas's video, which will be shown after the Liturgy. It will incorporate some of John Compos's film. Guests include the Mayor of Raleigh, Nancy McFarlane, and Bishop Grigorios, if he has recovered from his surgery. Fr. Paul said he also invited Fr. Paul Kaplanis and Fr. Radu, and Toula suggested Fr. Michael Petrides and Pres. Effie Stephanopoulos. Mark said Terri and Foti Fotiu are making a fabulous brunch, which will be held in a tent at the back. We are hoping 400 will attend. Estimated costs are \$4K for tent, \$8K for food, \$1K for video and \$2K miscellaneous. A discussion followed about the price of the tickets. The Parish Council agreed that they should be \$20 per adult and \$10 per child, the idea being to attract a larger crowd. Penny said that we would cancel the tent if we sold only 250 tickets. Fr. Paul said we all must promote this celebration. He will request donations for it. He will also ask people to submit the names of dear departed parishioners for a memorial service.

g. 2012 Festival: Mark noted that Friday Sept. 14 is the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross, a strict fast day. There was a write-up about the Festival by Andrea Weigi in today's News & Observer.

h. Maintenance: Jimmy Ellison said he needs volunteers to help finish the painting and repair job he and John Fakiris began on the entrance railing and wall. John, Don and George volunteered. Jimmy said he has pressure-washed the whole church except for the soffits at the back. He has painted the wall cover for the A/C and electrical box and will paint the front. He also fixed a leaky faucet that had rotted the stucco. The tree by Fr. Paul's office needs to be removed. Mark thanked Jimmy and the other volunteers.

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

- In the same vein, the light outside the altar still needs to be fixed.
- On Saturday, at 10 a.m., Fr. Michael will bless the Habitat House at 4106 Chinese Fir Trail in Raleigh that Holy Trinity helped to build. There will be two baptisms here that day.
- Someone has donated money for The Three Hierarchs icon for the Library.
- Father is concerned about parishioners who are sick that we don't know about. Please let him know if you know of someone. Maybe we can have a section called "I was sick and you visited me" that lists everybody who would like to be visited.

New Business: OCF: Fr. Michael said is planning to bring the NCSU group to Honduras, which he visited when he was in seminary. (He is also taking them on a retreat to the Diakonia Center.) There is just one Orthodox Church in Honduras, the church St. John the Baptist. It has 200 parishioners and is very active. It has an orphanage, feeds the poor, and has a medical dispensary. The OCF head office, which organizes Real Break trips, has taken the trip on and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' has given it his blessing. It will be March 3-9. The kids will fundraise for the trip, including the priest's expenses, in October. It will cost \$1,000-1,200 per person. The plan is to have a team of 10 go, half of them from here.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by George Pappas, seconded by John Demos.

Closing prayer: Father Paul led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Perros