

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2013**

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

Members Present: Father Paul Christy, Father Michael Marcantoni, Toula Capetanos, Greg Delage, John Fakiris, Fotis Fotiu, Penny Gallins, Nik Kamilaris, George Kapetanakis, Mark Langford, Frances Mathes, Dr. Risa Poniros

Members Absent: Evan Bundros, Meg Economy, David Ford, Dr. Connie Kledaras and Helen Perros

Rob Coffin gave an announcement that he had spoken with the President of NCPIL and that this group can help with energy assessments and other issues. Mark thanked Rob and said he would give the information to Jim Klemes.

Reading of the Minutes: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as emailed by Meg. A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Risa Poniros and seconded by Greg Delage. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: In David's absence, George Kapetanakis and Mark Langford reported:

- Total revenues for January were \$44,342 compared to \$37,215 for Jan. 2012. Stewardship revenue was \$38,491. Budgeted average monthly expense is \$44K and was \$39,501 in January.
- Net income for January was \$4821 compared to (\$4K) in January 2012.

George Kapetanakis pointed out the difference between the current assets and liabilities which left approx. \$11,000 for operating expenses. George asked why there was an additional \$53K in the liabilities account. Mark noted that this was money to be moved to the Campaign account from the Festival. Nik Kamilaris made a motion, seconded by Fotis Fotiou, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Parish Business:

a. Tooze Estate: Mark said that David Ford has been working with Rudy Ogburn, the attorney for Ms. Tooze's estate. We currently have \$98K from the estate which is from IRAs and insurance. We own her town house and over that there will be approximately \$600K from stocks. The estate will be settled sometime this summer. The Executive Committee proposes that we put the approximately \$115,000 we will receive from IRAs and insurance in the Operating Account. Mark noted that it is non-profit best practice to have 3 to 6 months of operating expenses in reserve. Toula asked if we could put these funds into a separate account so that we would not spend it on general operating expenses. George Kapetanakis said he did not want us to subsidize the community with Ms. Tooze's money and asked that we be careful to continue to emphasize stewardship. Mark said he asked several realtors in the parish to take a look at the townhouse. Joyce Mandikos has said that we will get approximately \$120 to \$125,000 for the property. The townhouse is 20 years old and the tax value is \$150,000. Mark said there is a dog in the property next door that may affect resell value. We may need to put some money into the property before selling. This can come from the moneys we have received from the estate. A General Assembly has to approve the sale of the townhouse. Mark gave an explanation of the situation. David, Meg and Mark met with Soraya, the caretaker. She had become friends with Ms. Tooze and then moved in with her and cared for her. Ms. Tooze left the contents of the house and a car to Soraya, she also made bequests to some other individuals but left our parish as residuary beneficiary. She said that Father Paul could decide what the money was used for. Fr. Paul would like to make the decision with the Parish Council. Toula repeated her concern about the money going into the operating account and Risa said ideally we need to make sure the dollars stay separate. Mark said we would keep the money in the operating account for now and be vigilant about it until the entire estate is settled.

b. Sale of Townhouse: This was covered in the discussion of the estate.

c. Capital Campaign Update: Penny Gallins said that the Campaign committee will send a letter to all those who have not pledged to the Campaign. Later there will be a list published of those who have pledged. Pledges and payments continue to come in. A suggestion for the Campaign is to put \$100,000 from the Tooze estate into the Memorial Fund to be used for iconography or other needs in the new

sanctuary and \$500,000 to \$600,000 into the Campaign. This amount would put our Campaign into a good position.

d. Bylaws: In David's absence, Mark reported that there is a suggested change in the new bylaws on what the criteria are for being in good standing. A parishioner would need to have completed a pledge form for the current year and have paid their pledge for the previous year. David wants the ok from the Parish Council to begin getting feedback from parishioners, then bring those suggestions back to the PC for approval. After that, the new bylaws will be taken to the General Assembly. George Kapetanakis noted we should add back to the by-laws that a priest would have to use the \$10,000 in moving expenses in the first year so we don't carry it in our liabilities. Mark said it is not at our discretion to tell a priest when to move. Father Paul does live here but the real estate market in Memphis is not good. Father Paul said that when they left Chicago and had to sell their house quickly they lost \$60,000. He is not trying to take advantage of us. George said it is not good for us to have to carry liabilities. Father said he wished priest's salaries did not have to come from our parish and he asked that we not put a time limit on a priest using the moving expenses. George noted that the proposed change regarding the \$10,000 for moving expenses be held to one year, would not be applicable to Father Paul, but to our next priest whenever that would occur. Father said he believes in the collective wisdom of the Parish Council and that we should all feel free to speak. There was consensus that David can move forward with meeting with Parishioners to get their input before bringing the by-laws back to the Parish Council.

e. Spring Dance: Toula said the dance will be March 2 from 7 to 11:30 PM. Tickets will be sold for 2 more Sundays. The teamwork of the Parish Council is important. We should all donate wine, beer and desserts. All income goes to the operating account and the purpose is fellowship. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. 110 tickets have been sold. Nik asked what the goal is and Toula said the budget is \$2500 so 125 tickets is break even. Set up is Friday March 1 at 10 AM. Toula asks that you bring desserts by Friday. She needs help at 8 am on Saturday to pick up the balloons. All are asked to sign up to collect tickets or work at the bar. Coffee and tea are included in the ticket price. Beverage prices were discussed: Beer will be \$3, glass of wine \$4 and bottle of wine \$10. We need to send a letter to the ABC Board.

f. Variety Show: Mark said so far there is one act signed up. The Show is March 10, Meatfare Sunday.

g. Other updates by Mark Langford:

- **Furniture Fundraiser:** Mark said that Betsy had begun a fundraiser asking parents to make donations to buy new furniture for the Sunday School rooms. Nik noted that at our December meeting we said that all ministries should come to the Parish Council first about fundraisers. Penny said she had discussed this with Betsy and told her this should not happen again. Mark said we need to get our stewardship up so we don't have to have these fundraisers.
- **Bob Krantz luncheon:** On Saturday April 20 there will be a luncheon with author Bob Krantz as the speaker. Father, Rose Marie Connell, Meg Economy and Mark Langford are organizing the event. The ticket price will be adjusted to cover the costs, not to raise funds, probably at \$15. Bob Krantz wrote *Falling in Love with Sophia*, a book on the Divine Liturgy and 7 books on Holy Week. Mr. Krantz will be here on Friday April 19 for the Akathist Hymn.
- **Health Department:** We are due for an inspection. All the items on our last inspection have been addressed. Kelly has taken the ServSafe class and took the exam on Saturday but has not heard the results.
- **Coffee Hour this Sunday for Ms. Tooze:** Mark asked that we all bring something for the Coffee Hour for 40 day memorial for Ms. Tooze.
- **Festival Donation to Habitat:** One Sunday a representative from Habitat will come to accept a check from our Festival to Habitat.

Comments/services/events/other: **Father Paul** pointed out our icon of the Three Hierarchs now hanging in the Library. He'd like to have a small service to bless the library. The Three Hierarchs are the patron saints of arts and letters.

For our Lenten Lecture series, Father Christodoulos cannot attend. We will have George Stavros, Stella Hondros and John Uhl, a speaker from an outreach ministry, Father Radu, Bishop Gregory. If you have frequent flier miles you can donate, that would help with expenses. On February 24, Father Michael will be the head Liturgist and Father Paul will be his assistant. Father Paul said that at their meeting with

Metropolitan Alexios where Father Michael was reassigned, The Metropolitan suggested we hire a youth director or pastoral assistant. Stella Hondros was suggested. Father has asked her to come as a Lenten Lecture speaker. Father has spoken to the Chancellor to ask if we could take some time before hiring someone. Foti asked what the duties would be for this position. The duties would include the youth activities, NCSU OFC, chanting and visiting the sick. Father Michael noted that two possible candidates, Stella Hondros and John Uhl are both classmates of his at Holy Cross and both have a M. Div. from Holy Cross. John Fakiris asked if this is a fulltime or part-time position and Father said it would be up to us. Frances noted that it is good to take a break but our youth get upset when an assistant priest leaves and they don't have the stability they need and we should not to take too long to make a decision on this position. Father Michael said the NCSU OCF is going through a transition with him leaving and the President of OCF Tina graduating. Toula asked about the relationship between OCF and COM. Father Michael said that OCF is a national pan-orthodox group at the 3 universities and COM is a parish ministry but that the two work together. Penny suggested we have a committee begin working on a job description and needs for this position. Nik Kamilaris, Frances Mathes and Father Paul will form the committee and get others to join. Penny said that the Metropolitan told her that these positions pay around \$30,000 and no benefits. George Kapetanakis noted that \$30,000 is not enough. Father said he would like for us to have a Parish Council retreat but we have not found a date yet. He wants it to have fun and be together and he'd like for us to use Mitch's talents.

Old Business:

- George Kapetanakis reminded us of the Chili Cook-off on Sunday at 5. He also asked if anyone had seen two photos that had been left in the pews.
- Nik Kamilaris said he will be out of town this Sunday and Connie can't cover for him. Penny Gallins and George Kapetanakis will take duties this Sunday for Nik and for David Ford.
- Risa said she will get a talent show skit together for the PC by the end of the week.
- Mark asked Father Michael to step out of the room. Mark asked how much of the mileage allowance we would like to give Father Michael. The total for the year is \$1000. Foti made a motion that we give him \$1000 and John Fakiris seconded. All agreed and the motion carried. After discussion, George Kapetanakis made a motion that we give Father Michael \$1000 as a gift and Risa seconded. All agreed and the motion carried.

New Business:

- George Kapetanakis asked if Father Paul would have enough help during Lent. Father said that Robert Shand, a seminarian, will be here during Holy Week. Nik said that he, Alex Kamilaris and Dakota Starr as altar coordinators would help with anything Father needs.
- Nik Said that during the Hellenic Dance Festival the Metropolitan said he would like for girls to read the Epistle during the Liturgy. Father said he welcomed that and Nik said he would make a schedule.
- Risa said she thinks it is a good idea to have parishioners make talks about stewardship as we have in the past.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by George Kapetanakis.

Closing prayer: Father Paul and led us in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Gallins