

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Minutes  
Wednesday, April 9, 2013**

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

**Members Present:** Father Paul Christy, Toula Capetanos, Greg Delage, John Fakiris, Fotis Fotiu, Penny Gallins, Nik Kamilaris, George Kapetanakis, Mark Langford, Evan Bundros, Meg Economy, David Ford and Helen Perros

**Members Absent:** Dr. Risa Poniros, Frances Mathes, Dr. Connie Kledaras

**Reading of the Minutes:** There was one correction to the minutes as emailed by Meg Economy, noting that the motion made by Nik Kamilaris for one tent for the Easter picnic was defeated and replaced by a second motion for two tents. A motion to accept the amended minutes of the previous meeting was made by Helen Perros and seconded by David Ford. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** David reported on the balance sheet, and we discussed the overview for each of the parish ministries, which are indicated on the balance sheet as liabilities.

- Total revenues for March were \$46,940 (not including appx. \$28,698 deposited from the Tooze Estate) compared to \$32,315 for March 2012. Stewardship revenue was \$35,973. Budgeted average monthly expense is \$40,330 and was \$42,951 in March 2012.
- Net income for March was \$6,609 (not including Tooze estate funds), compared to \$3,660 in March 2012.

Some discussion followed on changing the budget based upon recent changes with our clergy. Mark pointed out that it is customary to work with the budget as it stands, unless the PC makes a decision to change it. Some discussion ensued regarding on-line giving. David requested that we ask our ministries to provide an annual budget for financial record-keeping. George Kapetanakis expressed the opinion that we shouldn't touch this area, to maintain separation from Holy Trinity's budget. David reiterated that the goal would be enhanced communication. We discussed the Lenten Series budget too, and we are currently in a positive position in this area. Helen made a motion, seconded by Greg Delage, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Parish Business:**

**a. Sunday Deposit Accuracy:** President Mark Langford stressed the need for accuracy in counting and making the bank deposits. The reports we make for Kelly's record-keeping need to be exact. We need to independently double-check the numbers each week to insure accuracy.

**b. ADT Alarm System:** Mark said we have been having some error messages, and councilors need to double-check the outside door leading into the altar. We all need to be extra vigilant.

**c. Tooze Estate:** Mark presented the options available to us for selling Athena Tooze's townhome. The plan would need to be presented to the Metropolitan first, but he asked for opinions on how we should proceed. Greg asked if we will be liable for repairs from Soraya's lender, and John Fakiris suggested setting a contingency allowance to cover this eventuality. Mark will make a formal request to the Chancellor this week. Father let us know that Soraya was just hired to help care for Mrs. Vallas. David asked if we could name a small committee to make an offer to Soraya, which might include Mark, Sydney & David. George K made note that Soraya helped to preserve the estate by caring for Athena, and we should be generous with our offer to her. Mark's advice is to budget 1-2% of the property value. Toula Capetanos expressed concern regarding Soraya's loan. Helen made the motion that we designate David to represent us in the negotiations with Soraya, pending final PC approval. Motion seconded by Toula. David stated that his intention would be to make it an as-is offer to her, and then negotiate from that point. David will communicate with the Parish Council via email as needed. Motion carried.

**d. St. John the Merciful:** David spoke with BB&T regarding insuring a vehicle, and received an estimate of \$1,200./year. Toula reported on the Philoptochos meeting's discussion on this, and suggested our involving Michael LaSorsa as a specialist in this type of insurance. Foti Fotiou asked if the vehicle would become church property? Penny Gallins spoke to the ownership of a vehicle, and potential liability issues related to that and felt that establishing a 501(c)3 would be beneficial to the ministry. The finances would be handled through the ministry without the need to ask for a check with two Parish Council signatures each time a

need arose. The separate entity would own the vehicle. Our precedent has been to help get these type of ministries set up as independent non-profits, such as the scholarships and the Triangle Chorale. John questioned the liability issue. George asked for Fr. Paul's opinion on this ministry and support of charities. He stressed that, whatever the board decides, we will continue to support Deacon and this ministry. He stresses that we need the support of the Metropolis going forward. He asked for clarification on the Deacon's status under the Archdiocese. Toula asked about festival volunteers driving the vehicle, and Penny shared that the church purchases 3-day liability insurance for the festival. David shared his opinion on the ultimate cost of insuring drivers. Meg stated the two-fold need for 1) supporting the ministry and 2) helping with the vehicle purchase and insurance. Helen shared that Philoptochos donated generously to the charity, and Foti shared that individual members of the parish are supporting the charity as well. George asked for some resolution on this, for a decision. Nik shared that the ministry "belongs" to many members of Holy Trinity. Deacon is our representative in this arena of need, and he's asked the Parish Council for our support. Nik would like to see Holy Trinity take this on. Over the past 2 weeks, there have been 10 pick-ups. Penny shared the imperative to help this ministry grow and succeed, and that we need to build strategies to help that happen. Fr. Paul stressed the need for our community to have local involvement, and that we are required to have Metropolitan involvement if the ministry goes under the Holy Trinity "umbrella." David talked about the need for a mission statement, and suggested that we vote tonite to allow St. Johns to fundraise, then approach the Metropolis to get approval. Foti reiterated that Deacon only asked us for insurance. Penny questioned if what we are taking on might be too great for the parish to handle. Mark asked if Fr. Paul could discuss this with the Chancellor for clarification. Evan Bundros stated that we need to support this ministry whole-heartedly, but thinks the 501(c)3 would simplify the process for us and for the charity. Helen expressed that Deacon would be resistant to having officers, but suggested that the parish would need more accountability. Toula stated that the organization was created to help homeless individuals to become self-supporting. As a church, our first priority should be to reflect Christ's teaching. Discussion was tabled.

**e. Dove's Nest:** A change of schedule is in place for Dwight, who is no longer working at Holy Trinity on Sunday evenings. Instead, he will arrive early Monday morning to our facility. We need to insure that whoever is last leaving on Sunday night leaves the property secure.

**f. Capital Campaign update:** Penny Gallins reported on the last campaign letter, and that we have 5 new pledges since Feb., totaling 120 pledges for \$2.5 million in gifts. \$1,234 million in pledges have been paid, and the Capital Campaign account contains \$1.85 million. Helen asked where the additional monies came from, and Penny clarified that they came from other sources, including fundraisers and the Festival.

**g. Inventory of Supplies:** Penny reported that the inventory list has been updated, both for kitchen supplies and for candles. Her suggestion would be for one person per month to be responsible for this task. Penny offered to do this for the rest of the year, and suggested the VP might be responsible for this task in future.

**h. Clergy Laity Conference:** Mark reported that the upcoming Clergy Laity Conference is scheduled for the last weekend in June in Boca Raton, FL. He asked for volunteers among the newer members of the Parish Council. The conference meetings begin on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>, and continue through Sunday. Councilors are to let Mark know if you're interested. The conference is also selling ¼ page ads, at \$50. Toula made the motion to purchase an ad for Holy Trinity, which was seconded by Foti. All approved, motion passed.

**i. Archdiocese Allocation Appeal:** Mark reported that the process for the allocation appeal is now completed. The next step is to convene the audit committee, and Tom is to do this later in April (after the 15<sup>th</sup>). George questioned the appropriateness of this appeal, and Mark expressed that it will likely not happen despite the volume of paperwork.

**j. Bob Krantz Lenten Luncheon and Presentation:** Meg reported that ticket sales have been modest so far. Bob's airfare and hotel are booked, and rentals and catering have been ordered. Volunteers are in place to facilitate set-up and food service, and will need Parish Council members to assist with tear-down/re-set of hall following the event. We need all Parish Council members to purchase tickets. Nik offered to help with clean-up, as well as Mark and Helen.

**k. Schedule for Lent & Holy Week:** Mark passed out copies of the service schedule for sign-ups. He requested that we sign up for at least 2 items on the list.

**l. Easter Picnic:** Mark opened a discussion on picnic details. George gave the opinion that we should rent only one tent, instead of two. Some discussion on logistics and costs. George made a motion that we not spend more than \$2,500, not seconded. Motion dies.

**Comments/services/events/other:** Father Paul asked for volunteers to be Agape readers on Easter Sunday. The readers will gather in library and process into the sanctuary together. Fr. Paul has been approached to do a memorial service in NY May 19<sup>th</sup>, has requested Fr. Nick S to fill in for him here. A parishioner is also our new plumber.

**Old Business:** Toula asked if candle info has come in from Diaconia Center, and if we have enough for the Easter season, and Mark confirmed that we do. We would need to give the Diaconia Center about a month's notice for an order. Have the thermostats been checked? Evan said that's in progress. David asked if we had made progress with having a kitchen manager, or kitchen committee. Lelia Tagaris does this informally. Foti knows a young man, Chris Cook, in the community who might be interested in helping with this. David will talk to him about it.

- Nik mentioned that Cassidy Engle has been reading the Epistle on Sunday. The feature of the Goyans doing this will continue through the year. Holy Thursday will feature many readers as well. He and Yanni are developing a reader's ministry for the church.
- Foti asked about the Archangel Michael awards, and they have been submitted by Fr. Paul.

**New Business:**

- John made an observation that funeral procession cars get separated between the church and cemetery. He suggested that the church could provide maps to the cemetery. Could we have them on the candle stand?
- Toula C mentioned that cooking for the Festival begins in May. Parish Council members should be aware that that is coming up and be involved.
- Nik asked for specific needs for Fr. Paul for Holy Week, and he requested an altar boy practice/meeting.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by David, seconded by Mark.

**Closing prayer:** Father Paul led us in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Economy

Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2013.