

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Minutes  
Wednesday, May 15, 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, John Fakiris, Fotis Fotiu, Penny Gallins, Nik Kamilaris, George Kapetanakis, Mark Langford, Evan Bundros, Meg Economy, David Ford, Dr. Risa Poniros, Frances Mathes and Helen Perros.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Connie Kledaras and Greg Delage.

**Reading of the Minutes:** There were three correction to the minutes as emailed by Meg Economy, noting that the motion made by Helen Perros regarding the donation by Philoptochos to St. John the Merciful was specifically for a vehicle and gas. Secondly, Helen expressed that Deacon sees the organization (St. Johns) as a grass-roots organization. George also added that he offered to be accountable to the PC for the St. John the Merciful ministry. A motion to accept the amended minutes of the previous meeting was made by George and seconded by Helen. Motion carried.

David Ford introduced a guest to the meeting, Soraya Mancheno, the caregiver for Athena Tooze and potential owner of the townhome. She spoke briefly to the group, to express that she would do whatever was needful to advance the relationship. She still feels Athena in the home very strongly. She shared that Athena was very emphatic in her views, that she had known Athena about 5 years, and described the sweet relationship between Luke (her son) and Athena. The discussion was congenial and warm.

**General Assembly:** needs to be scheduled sometime in June, for consideration of the updated by-laws. Potential date set for June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** David reported on the budget, and handed out copies to the members for referral.

- Total revenues for April were \$34,450, compared to \$55,418 for April 2012. Stewardship revenue was \$25,076. Total operating monthly expense is \$40,016 and was \$50,546 in April 2012.
- Net ordinary income for April YTD of (\$3,234), compared to \$1,211 in April 2012.

Some discussion followed on operating expenses, with multiple questions on line items. Meg made a motion, seconded by Frances, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Parish Business:**

**a. Sale of Tooze Townhome:** David recapped the discussions with Soraya's offer of \$75,000, including her request for Holy Trinity to finance the sale. David stated to her that we would be unable to finance it for her, and all agreed on that point. We discussed the details briefly, including potential financing and appraisals. Foti made a motion that we have the property appraised, with some discussion. The motion was not seconded. David guided the question on whether we want to accept her offer, or make a counter offer to her. Mark suggested we deliberate on the number we would feel good about for a counter offer, and we talked this around the table, with suggested numbers between \$95,000 and \$75,000. Frances asked for a clarification on making a counter offer, and Mark restated our fiduciary responsibility to Holy Trinity. Nik spoke to the overall value of the Tooze estate to our church, and to the need to move forward on selling this property. Helen made a motion that we counter offer to \$90,000, seconded by Evan. Some discussion followed. Helen revised her motion to set \$95,000 for a counter offer, seconded by Evan. The first motion was withdrawn. Second motion carried. We will call a special meeting to follow up on the offer to Soraya, when David has an answer from her.

**b. Schedule for Lent & Holy Week:** Mark mentioned the positive attitude of the councilors and excellent camaraderie during the services this year. Evan suggested we have the wheelchair outside (in the vestibule) and available to congregants as needed. John also suggested adding another more stable bench for first aid. Risa spoke to the possibility for CPR certification for the Parish Council members. Toula mentioned that counting the money during the week was a big help for Friday and Saturday duties, but that we needed another person on duty on Sunday morning. Frances brought up the candles, and asked if we can get the children in Holy Friday's retreat to help with putting the cups on the candles, and Nik supported that. Mark mentioned recycling candles from Friday to Saturday, with some discussion. Many ideas

brought forward, nothing was decided. Mark expressed appreciation for Harry Costa, Chris Pappas and Jason Kekas on the video coverage in the Hall.

**I. Easter Picnic:** Mark spoke to the success of this activity.

**d. Regional Choir Conference:** Meg presented the suggestion that Raleigh consider hosting the 2015 Regional Choir Conference, which happens the last weekend in July. Meg made a motion that we host the conference, seconded by Nik. Motion carried.

**e.** Some discussion followed on **proper church etiquette:** councilors on duty should be aware of timing of liturgy regarding kneeling and taking candles up to the altar at proper times.

**f. Inspection of French Drive rental property:** the recent home inspection to the French Drive rental house was excellent, and the house is in good shape. Filters were changed by the management company at that time, and good service has been provided. Many thanks are due to Leon Kythas for handling this for us.

**Comments/services/events/other:** Father Paul addressed the on-going situation with St. John the Merciful needing to purchasing a vehicle. He shared with us the Bishop's request that the ministry be set up as a 501(c)3, with Deacon Gavriilo serving as chairman, and to move forward with purchasing a vehicle as required. His Eminence was supportive and interested, with parishioners encouraged to be involved. This Sunday Fr. Nick Spirakis is to be in the altar, and Penny suggested he could stay at the Candlewood Suites very reasonably. She will follow up on the reservation for him. Fr. Paul brought up the question of trays being passed during Holy Week services. What days, how many? Mark explained the format, that we pass extra trays when the church is very full. Everyone agreed that we should not pass trays on Thursday night. Fr. Paul shared with us that the Archangel Michael awards went to Chris Pappas and Alex Kamilaris.

**Old Business:** Toula asked about thermostat regulation, and Evan spoke about the hold process, and John spoke about having permanent sets on them. He shared that you can just turn on the fan to circulate the air. Toula also mentioned motion sensors for the lights. Evan demonstrated them, and offered to provide them, and Foti agreed to install them for us. And Toula brought up that we are currently low on candles. Penny said that candles are on order and will work with Toula on possibly making our next order from the monastery. Toula asked about recent bequests. David brought up that we need to include the by-laws changes in upcoming bulletins, and that he will have an information table in the coffee hour available in the coming Sundays for questions prior to the June general assembly. George suggested the by-laws be posted on the website. Helen shared that she really appreciated the Lenten Speaker series this season.

**New Business:** Penny spoke to the question regarding moving Festival funds into the operating account. She said that parishioners had approached her with questions regarding the Festival account. In order to answer these questions she obtained a list of all expenditures from the account in 2012. There were three expenditures that were not direct Festival expenses. One was \$5000 for 1937 French Drive repair and maintenance as approved by the General Assembly. The other two were 1) an upgrade of the church's HVAC system, and 2) the payment of a City of Raleigh water assessment – these were legitimate uses of the Festival account.

Another question from a parishioner was whether \$25,000 was taken from the Building Fund. Penny noted that \$25,000 was not taken from the Campaign Fund and moved to the Operating Fund. Helen asked which Building Fund. Penny said she had asked the parishioner which fund they meant, and they were unable to answer. The Facilities and Maintenance Fund is funded from the Festival account, with the approval of the Parish Council, so maybe this caused the confusion.

Toula asked that the PC host the coffee hour on the name day of our church on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Motion seconded by Helen. All approved. Toula also shared that the Durham Festival will be held June 1-2<sup>nd</sup> at the church, and all to support it. Nik asked about why the SS oratorical speeches were held in the multi-purpose room instead of the sanctuary, and recommended that it be in the sanctuary. Fr Paul spoke to the need for progression from the classroom, to the multi-purpose room, to the sanctuary, as recommended by Betsy Higgins.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Risa, seconded by George.

**Closing prayer:** Father Paul led us in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Economy

Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2013.