

Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Those in attendance: Fr. Paul Christy, Fr. Michael Marcantoni, President Mark Langford, Evan Bundros, Toula Capetanos, Meg Economy, John Fakiris, David Ford, Foti Fotiu, Penny Gallins, Nik Kamilaris, George Kapetanakis, Frances Mathes, Helen Perros, and Dr. Risa Poniros. Those absent: Greg Delage and Dr. Connie Kledaras.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Fr. Paul led us in an opening prayer.

Kevin Stravedes and Ted Caporal came in to briefly discuss the need for two rolling basketball goals for the teams to practice in the hall. They are to be paid for by sponsors/GOYA parents, can be stored/moved outside. Also talked about long-range options with raising the roof of the current hall, adding bleachers in the future. Discussed the option of renting other gym facilities, quite expensive.

Reading of the Minutes: from last board meeting, reported by Helen Perros and Meg Economy. Helen pointed out that the minutes had been amended with additional information regarding the discussion on the 2013 Budget at the Parish Council Meeting. Motion to approve was made by Toula, seconded by Foti to approve as amended. Approved as noted.

Treasurer's Report: presented by David Ford.

- a) David is optimistic that December revenues so exceeded all expectations. He reported that the numbers do not include Capital Campaign moneys. David reports that overall financial picture is much better than we'd anticipated beginning 2013, and in a good position going forward. Toula mentioned the "last chance" opportunity to catch up on stewardship pledges in January. He reviewed the attached financial charts with us (noted in reverse order). Fr. Michael asked about raising our Capital Campaign acct to \$2mil, Penny deferred to later discussion on CC. Toula complimented David on his presentation showing balance sheets, and all agreed that Father Paul's direct appeal was outstanding. Penny suggested that the budget, expense and actual financial numbers be in the bulletin each month, on the Sunday following the Parish Council meeting. Thanks also go to John Demos for excellence on the part of stewardship committee, \$6000 more pledged with 15 new pledging families over last year.
- b) Discussed the recent bequest to HT by Athena Tooze. She passed away Jan. 4th, and David has been representing HT in meetings, as the church is residual beneficiary to her estate. Executor estimates this will be a generous gift, we will know more within 6 months. Too soon to make any decisions regarding this bequest.

Mark pointed out that our balance sheet topped \$2mil. Helen motioned to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Frances. All approved.

Parish Business:

- a) Update on the recent meeting with Bishop Alexios in Atlanta, presented by Mark Langford. Representatives included Harry Costa, Dennis Kekas, Mark & Penny. Appeal was made to His Eminence for a reduction of our current parish assessment. They met with the Chancellor and Metropolitan for 3+ hours and lunch, he listened carefully to our request and encouraged us to file for an appeal on the parish allocation for this year. Penny commented that everyone appreciated the reception they received, and opportunity to present our struggles. We have until April 2013 to initiate the appeal process, and it would affect just the parish allocation for the current year.
- b) Use of Festival Funds for establishing a fund for property repair & maintenance was presented by Mark Langford. HT has about \$200,000 in festival acct., spent quite a bit on repairs on facility and culvert into parking lot in 2012. We need to think about how to plan for this type of expense in future, and how to allocate the funds we raise through Festival. Noted that donation funds haven't been sent to Habitat as yet. Toula asked how we're doing on the "to do" list prepared by Jim Klemes, and Helen reviewed the list for us. Painting and pew refurbishing, as well as the electrical work needed. George mentioned issues with the mics on the Psalty stand, but Mark thinks that would be corrected with the electrical fix. Discussed using festival funds for repairs and maintenance, would need about \$60-70,000. for the yearly cycle. David will look into investment options for maintaining this amount in savings. Toula made the motion that we dedicate 10% of net profits of Festival to Habitat, seconded by Foti. All approved. Can we generate publicity of this gift? Penny suggested we email our Habitat contact about promoting this, and she will also approach the N&O. Evan B. made motion to transfer \$50,000.00 to repair & maintenance acct., seconded by Helen. All approved.
- c) General discussion of the Duties for PC members during Divine Liturgy. List is attached. Training is to be by team captains for new councilors. Nik suggested Fr. Paul let councilors know if 40 day blessing gets added quickly. Penny suggested we add a changing table to the men's room for dads. Toula made a motion to add this, seconded by Risa. All approved. Penny will work with Kelly to have this installed, cost is estimated \$300.00. Fr. Michael brought up the issue of the crowd of young people who stand around the Narthex during the Liturgy. Group reiterated the need to continually move people into the service. Evan spoke to the need to assign the young people to specific tasks during Liturgy. George suggested we close the glass doors during the Epistle, and stress as well councilors should be kneeling during the consecration, even outside in the entry.
- d) Ambassador Program update by Penny Gallins. Schedule has been updated. When it's youth Sunday, the GOYAns are Ambassadors, but the adults should do the coffee. Make note of different containers and updating the inventory list, as well as big roll of white paper for table covering in the storage room. Toula noted the candle inventory. George noted that we should remove Koleva and loaves for Artoklasia at the very end of Liturgy. George asked for special cleaner for glass tubes on coffee machine and the coffee pots.

- e) Capital Campaign Committee update by Penny Gallins. The committee will have another review prior to next General Assembly. We have a bit more than \$1.8mil cash, plus \$1.2mil in pledges, with pledges continuing to come in. The CCC Executive Committee is Harry Costa, Chris Pappas, George Pappas and Penny Gallins. They met with Fr. Paul, and made note that of 100 parish families (30% of the community) committing to the campaign, we are already ½ way to raising the moneys needed to break ground. The EC suggests that we continue to campaign and not break ground until we achieve \$4mil in cash (+ \$2mil pledged) commitment, and to maintain the original plan. They will continue to work with the City of Raleigh to meet required planning codes. Toula asked about an update on planned costs, and Penny shared that Chris P had reviewed and shown that construction costs have stayed at the same level over two years. Penny said most questions from parishioners relate to how much money we've raised, and where it is coming from. Most board comments were favorable to this approach by CCC executive committee. John F asked if the committee believed our parish could reach this goal, and Penny affirmed a definite yes. She also stated that 30% of our stewards have gotten us to this point, and we still have 70% of the parishioners to commit. The purpose of the Jan. 27th special general assembly is to answer questions on the CCC from the community. Frances asked if anything will be done to visually show our progress, and the EC will be planning this next week. Some discussion on the method for this, and Mark suggested that could be integrated into the bulletin on a monthly basis. Helen anticipated the question if whether we might move additional funds from the Festival funds to the CCC. Between 2003-2007, \$285,000 was dedicated from Festival funds to the CCC. George will be making the presentation for the GA.
- f) By-Laws Review presented by David Ford. A seven-member team has worked on the revisions and is satisfied with the changes. That document is attached. They would like it to be presented to the GA for review, then anticipate presenting for final approval next June for a final vote at the next summer GA. Mark said we would revisit this item at Feb. PC meeting. Round of applause for David and his committee.
- g) ServSafe certification for Kelly Barton is in progress, updated by Mark Langford. Date of course is Jan. 25-26th. Risa asked if we have a back-up plan in case Kelly is not in the office, but Mark explained that it won't significantly affect our on-going operations.
- h) Spring Dance information and update by Toula Capetanos. Date is Sat., March 2nd, with a goal of fellowship, and costumes are optional. Emails have gone out to other communities, with a good response so far with limited sale dates. Two years ago we made about \$2,200; we will need many donations (desserts, hotel room for band, balloons/helium, beer/wine). Will also accept monetary donations. Next meeting Toula would have a sign-up sheet for ticket table volunteers. Net proceeds go toward operating costs. Set-up to be on March 1st. Event has to sell 125 tickets to break even.

- i) Talent Show information and update by Mark Langford. Date to be Sunday, March 10th, potentially to be used as a fund-raiser for GOYA. However, there is appx. \$500 expenses for staging and audio. \$10 ticket price in 2012. Suggestion was made that we allow that to come off the GOYA budget line.
- j) Keys for new PC members, distributed with instructions by Mark Langford.

Comments: by Fr. Paul regarding new councilors, handed out the PC handbooks. Lenten lecture series might include Robert Krantz, Dr. George Stavros, Bishop Gregorious, Fr. Radu, and Deacon Gavriilo will secure another speaker from the Outreach Ministry. Goal is to educate the parish on our faith and theology. Penny asked if expenses were covered last year, and Fr. Paul noted that between Philoptochos & Ahepa as well as nightly donations we met our expenses. Some discussion on Bob Krantz's excellent books and languages. He made note of a letter to the Bishop regarding Fr. Paul officiating at a wedding Feb. 9th in Ft. Myers. Fr. Michael noted that he'd heard requests for the St. Basil books, as well as other Liturgical books located on the black cabinet in the back storage room. He also shared a recent conversation on the Beatitudes. Fr. Michael took over the OCF group at NCSU last summer, and they were struggling. They are organizing a trip to the Orthodox orphanage in Honduras. A new site for OCF, His Eminence has given his blessing for the trip March 2-9th. Still on GO for 4 local students to participate, with other OCF groups sending representatives from around the country. The students all did great through the holidays, and we plan to invite the students to present during the Lenten lecture series.

Old Business: Toula thanked everyone who signed up to be interviewed by Alisa. 40 Day memorial Feb. 17th for Athena Tooze, board is sponsoring the coffee hour, so everyone should bring in goodies. Mark spoke briefly regarding the American Cancer Society doing a presentation during the GA or another time. Group opted for another date due to full day of activity already planned.

New Business:

- a) Some discussion on the issue of people parking in handicapped spaces. Will be reiterated in future church bulletins. Discussed strategies, such as putting a note on the cars.
- b) Some discussion on allowing advertising in some capacity. Some parishoners actually donate anonymously.
- c) Chili Cook-off upcoming February 17th, at 5pm.
- d) Some discussion on call list for alarm company.
- e) NC Museum of History to be presenting "The Tsars Cabinet" with icons on display in October. We will be working with the Museum on some involvement by our community.

Adjournment of the meeting at 9:10pm.

Closing Prayer by Father Michael.

Next Parish Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Economy