

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
July 18, 2018

**Opening Prayer:** Father Paul Christy opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Call to Order:** President Mary Winstead called the meeting to order at 7PM.

**Members Present:** Leslie Dombalis, Steve Flaherty, Maria Hicks, Jason Kekas, Jim Klemes, David Kouba, Sydney Langford, Bob Lyford, Jim Riley, Steve Ryan, Mary Wehbie, Mary Winstead.

**Member Absent:** John Demos, Leon Kythas, Costa Panagos.

**Guest:** Dr. John Klemes

**Reading of the Minutes:** Mary Wehbie

Minutes sent electronically in advance of the meeting. Motion to accept by Steve Flaherty. Second by Jim Riley. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Lyford

Bob reviewed totals on the balance sheet noting transfer of Capetanos Memorial to Kitchen Fund as agreed to for expenses related to the new dishwasher. He notes money in Vallas Memorial Fund as well. Bob reviewed P/L Statement. He notes a favorable stewardship income and would be interested in data that would show what percentage we have collected against pledges made. Stewardship income is \$30,000 ahead of budget, of which \$15,000 is carried over from last year. Overall there is a \$40,000 profit this year, compared to a \$6000 deficit last year. Expenses are on track to budget. Change noted to choir fund due to infusion of funds from outside source. Ministries have not all spent their money. Jim Klemes inquires whether increase in stewardship is due to increase in donations, new members, or both. John Demos and Bob will prepare a stewardship update.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Jim Riley. Second by Steve Ryan. Motion carried.

**Ministries Update:** Bob Lyford

Bob reported an update from the Building Committee from George Pappas. George reports that, as known, our church community reached a milestone with the unanimous vote to purchase the adjacent Vallas property, with a signed contract with the Vallas family and with approval of Metropolitan Alexios. This will dramatically expand our building options. Capital Campaign is active. Parishioners continue to faithfully fulfill their pledges. George encouraged the community to consider making a sacrificial gift that fulfills the call of the Gospel, which says, "Since you are eager for the gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." 1Corinthians 14. Jim Klemes thanks Mary Winstead for her steady leadership to accomplish this wonderful opportunity. He feels it will provide the opportunity to jump start the Capital Campaign. Mary Winstead reports that she had an excellent committee. Each member brought a different perspective and expertise. It would be logical at this time to assemble a strategic planning committee. Jim Allen remains interested in purchasing property while he is building in the area.

**Durham Bulls Greek Heritage Night:** Maria Hicks

172 tickets have been sold. Covered seats are sold out. Uncovered are still available. 4 food vendors will be selling Greek food: Gyro, Greek pizza, tazziki flavored wings, etc. Greek flag will be displayed. Children will be on the field for various activities. Choir will sing the Greek National Anthem. Dancers will perform at front entrance and on the field between innings. Festival will be promoted. Fr. Paul to throw the first pitch.

Mary Winstead welcomed Dr. Klemes to our meeting.

**Maintenance Report:** Jim Klemes

Jim thanked our greatest asset, Chris Pappas, who continues to offer his expertise. The following are underway. George Kapetanakis and John Fakiris replaced lights outside above front doors. Leon Kythas will paint the breaker panels and kitchen doors. Jim Klemes replaced security handle on the utility room. It remains uncertain how it was broken. Jim would like the door kept locked. Questions arose whether fire code requires that it be left opened. Locksmith changed locks in the nursery so that it matches the rest of the Sunday school rooms. Upcoming repairs include repairing ceiling from recent leak. Bond Roofing offered a quote of \$900 to repair. Caulking needs to be done in the church. Jim is getting quotes to complete. There are 5 areas in the parking lot that need to be repaired. Chris Pappas has one quote for \$17,300. Jim has quote from Raleigh Paving for \$15,300. Quote is good for 30 days. Bob reports that funds are available. Discussion followed. Parking areas are > 25 years old. As such, deterioration is likely to continue. If we triage the needs, one would say the area in back where Sysco trucks make deliveries and an area where handicapped spaces are important to repair. We can get separate quotes, but it is expected that quotes would be not necessarily be proportional, i.e. cost may be higher to complete smaller areas. Motion to complete paving of all areas at lowest bid by Sydney Langford. Second by Jim Riley. Motion carried. One opposed. David Kouba notes that we have a goal to build a new sanctuary, but are spending significantly on our current building. He would prefer to see large projects on hold until a new strategic plan is developed. Jim notes that while this is in development, we are going to continue to have maintenance requirements such as HVAC systems and roofing, etc.

**Festival Report: Jason Kekas**

Jason reports that overall, festival is on track. Advertising has been set with WRAL and News and Observer. There will be greater emphasis on digital and less print due to current trends. Fairway will not be used as WRAL now offers similar services. At Greek Heritage Night cell phones picked up on cell towers will be targeted for Greek Festival ads.

Lamb burgers will be added to the GYRO booth and only chicken souvlaki will be served. The Kid's Corner will be replaced by overflow for the line from GYRO booth. It will be moved to the main vendor area.

For use in the Gyro Booth, Jason is switching to gas equipment to decrease operating cost, but notes that capital equipment will be purchased. He plans to sell our old equipment and purchase new items. This will open an area where Sysco trucks deliver goods.

Volunteer signups are starting and are a little ahead of last year. He encouraged everyone to sign up and encourage other to sign up. Website has improved to take less time.

Baklava brownies will be served in the pastry booth.

Pepsi increased our cost of drinks from \$.31 to \$.35 due to increase cost of aluminum. He proposes increasing prices of drinks to \$2.25 per can. Discussion followed. He reports that 600 cases were sold in 2016 and 500 in 2017. He notes that Coke is not willing to negotiate with us for such benefits as advertising. Mary Wehbie notes that she does not have sufficient background on finances of the festival to render a decision and defers to Jason. She notes that cost of capital equipment and its impact is not known as well. PC by consensus defers to Jason to decide on cost of drinks at the festival.

Mary Winstead inquired which charities will be supported. Jason reports that Homes for our Troops will be awarded 2%. Team Rubicon will be given 2 sponsorships. Habitat for Humanity will receive 10% and St John the Merciful will receive \$2800. Last year we made a donation to Diakonia Center as well.

Jeff Winstead spoke to Highway Patrol about traffic flow at Fairgrounds. In 2019 traffic patterns will change due to construction. It is expected that all work will be complete by start of NCSU football season.

**Father Paul Christy Comments:**

Father Paul discussed a Sunday Liturgy situation he would like to have revised. He frequently receives a note from PC the requests a memorial, special prayer, or trisagion prayer. The proper procedure is for the individual to phone the office and make this request in advance of the service. He is happy to meet with anyone after the service who has need to talk, but the requests are a distraction to the Liturgy being served.

Father Paul reported that Dwight would be having surgery on his ankle on August 19<sup>th</sup>. He showed PC the new altar boy vestments that were donated in Memory of Helen Candes by her sons.

**President's Comments: Mary Winstead**

As discussed previously "Name Tag Sunday" is Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>. No one will be hosting coffee hour. PC asked to bring Lenten item.

Rob will be at St. Stephen's Camp the week of July 21-27. Trey has a planned vacation the same week. He will work Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to assist with cleaning tasks.

In the future, hall rental forms will be posted in the office for the convenience of PC members on duty.

Mary updated PC on Dwight's accident. The at-fault driver had no insurance. The owner of the vehicle is unknown. As such, there is no one from whom he can recoup losses. Dwight's truck was totaled, he has had 2 hospitalizations and 2 surgeries, his wife sustained injury as well. She notes that PC has agreed to pay Dwight for 2 months. Many parishioners have inquired how they may help Dwight. Discussion followed. Suggestions made were: creating a GoFundMe page, opening a Charitable account at an institution, and using Wehbie Wehbie Fund. PC agreed after discussion to have anyone who would like to make a donation direct it to Wehbie Wehbie Fund. Mary Winstead will write announcement for the community.

Motion made to pay Dwight for a period of two months by Jim Klemes. Second by Jason Kekas. Motion carried.

Mary reported that insurance will pay a total of \$15,000 with no deductible for recent flood damage. Two companies will assess and make recommendations. There is a concern that damage may exceed this amount. Based on our current policy, this is what will be paid. Two companies will evaluate damage, offer recommendations and make offers.

Questions arose about whether our coverage is adequate for the facilities. It is noted that we have not done a review and comparison for several years. PC feels it is due diligence to reassess. Bob Lyford will start this process.

Father Paul would like to have the communicants lined up in the front of the church when he comes out to administer communion. Do not hold people in the back of the church. Collections will begin from the side aisles.

**Old Business:**

Jim Klemes reports that Beba asked if PC could assist putting up tables for baking. This will be arranged.

**New Business:** Mary Winstead reports that she has been on many PC over many years, but in her experience we have never had a PC baby. She congratulates Jason Kekas and offered a gift from PC.

**Motion to adjourn** by Mary Wehbie at 8:30PM

**Closing Prayer:** Father Paul Christy.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wehbie