

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
June 20, 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, Leon Kythas, Sydney Langford, Bob Lyford, Steve Ryan, Mary Wehbie, Mary Winstead.

Member Absent: John Demos, David Kouba, Costa Panagos, Jim Riley.

Reading of the Minutes: Mary Wehbie

Minutes sent electronically in advance of the meeting. Motion to accept the minutes be Steve Flaherty. Second Jason Kekas. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Lyford

Bob reviewed the Balance sheet. He noted that with kitchen project complete money will be will be moved from accounts as payments are made. He notes that the time frame to purchase the Vallas property is 90 days. He will reinvest funds for 30 days so that they are available when needed. Bob reviewed the profit and loss for the month of May. He noted stewardship and compared to last year. He notes \$15,000 donation that was made in 2017 and credited to 2018. Questions asked regarding stewardship numbers and whether we have new stewards. John Demos and Amalia Kythas can better answer. Bob noted that GOYA requested additional money for the calendar year. The amount of money requested is within amount that can be approved by PC. Mary Wehbie requests that before additional money is added to the GOYA that a full report of activities, attendance and parental involvement be provided. Her observation is that activity of GOYA, aside from sporting activities, has decreased. She acknowledges that her children are no longer involves, so it is uncertain whether this observation is correct. Leslie Dombalis is in agreement that additional money not be allocated at this time. Jim Klemes would like to discuss with Father Paul and Mary Winstead his observations regarding GOYA and HDF at another time. He pointed out that in HDF 25 year olds were taking on responsibility of chaperoning dancers instead of parents accepting this responsibility. Increased parent involvement is necessary. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Jim Klemes. Second by Leslie Dombalis. Motion carried.

Parishioner's Request: Father Paul For Alga Araya

Alga reported to Father that the Ethiopian Church will be having an event at another facility. She requests that we permit them to use 50 chairs for the event. They will be responsible to pick up and return the chairs. It is recommended that we adopt a policy for such situations. She would like to have more activity at Holy Trinity. It is noted that Holy Trinity Parish often has conflicts and scheduling challenges and it remains difficult to open the facilities to other events.

Ministry Updates:

Christians Caring for Creation Ministry

CCCM is hosting a movie. They invited the PC and parish to view the informative piece on Saturday at 6:30 PM. There is concern that the Patriarch's message is one of the protecting the environment and we are dismissing his directives. The herb garden is planted. Rob Coffin would like to get nice posters to put up in the hall that are informative for recycling. Jim Klemes will donate the amount needed for the posters.

Preschool is breaking even. Summer schools are in session. There are currently 2 employees. Feedback indicates that a disadvantage is that we are half day. Leslie notes that children who are students of the preschool are well prepared for kindergarten. Any activities that work with our youth should be supported financially. They received one student from neighborhood drive. They would like to reach out to parents when children are baptized. Mary Wehbie notes that a record of all Baptisms is kept in the office..

Fellowship Hall Rental requests: Mary Winstead

George Nixon would like to rent the hall for his wedding on December 8th. Approved subject to restrictions. Mary Wehbie reports that Philoptochos has reserved the space until 12 noon on the 8th. There is some flexibility on the 8th, but Café lasts until 8:30-9PM on Friday. The hall will have to be cleaned and decorated on Saturday.

Jason Kekas reports that Barber shop quartet would like to use several classrooms and the multipurpose room on August 25 from 8AM to 4PM for training sessions. PC will need to cover the event. Jason will be available if his child is not born, otherwise PC will be responsible. Steve Flaherty can cover the event Jim great that we use church facilities for community events. Jim will work with Steve to cover. PC agrees to \$200 fee for use of facilities. Agree by consensus.

Maintenance: Jim Klemes

Mary Winstead asked Jim to become involved with the maintenance group. Jim notes that over many years, Chris Pappas has done unbelievable amount of work to maintain the facilities. Jim feels that this role is responsibility of all PC members to continue this work. Jim hands out records that detail maintenance schedules and requirements. He reviewed the need for asphalt around the facilities. 2 bids have been obtained at an approximate cost of \$15,000. Roof work needs to be done on aging roof. In the past much of the work has been reactive to circumstances presented. He would like to adopt a proactive maintenance plan. Leak in the

basement was due to trees in the basin A sump pump in the catch basin will help prevent in the future. Due to the age and ongoing requirements, it is necessary to rededicate ourselves to care for our facilities, including the sanctuary, fellowship hall and educational wing. Leon Kythas will be painting some areas in the fellowship hall and kitchen. Jim recommends that money be moved from festival fund into maintenance account. \$80,000 is available. Jim estimates that we will use all of \$35,000 to \$40,000 for most immediate needs. Some are capital projects, some are maintenance. Festival funds historically fund unexpected expenses. Jim would like to streamline process by empowering the staff to make decision what needs to be fixed instead of needing PC approval. Mary Winstead would like this accountability to the Parish president. We have adopted a policy of obtaining 3 bids, but notes that for some projects there is limited availability and he suggests that we adjust this policy depending on the project and whether we are working with contractors with whom we have worked in the past. He would like to set a threshold for how much the president can approve. Work will need to be done on the roof as well.

President's Comments:

Insurance claim. Mary updated the PC on the insurance claim made after recent flooding in the church. We are 3 weeks out and it has not been determined whether insurance will pay the claim. It may be necessary to tear out walls to repair. Bob Lyford will review our policy.

Mary reported that after the last basement flood everything was cleaned. Catch basins were clean as of work date.

Motion to have 2 bids for any repair over \$1000 and for repairs under \$1000 to use preferred suppliers made by Jason Kekas. Second by Steve Flaherty. Motion carried.

Jim reported that Davis Landscape will not go on the roof to clean. He is working on alternate solutions. On the first Thursday of every month a walk through of the facilities will be done to identify maintenance issues.

Festival Update: Jason Kekas

Volunteer coordinators request that the PC encourage parishioners to sign up as volunteers for the festival. Schedulers set the templates to 3 hours for those who may be unable to work longer hours. They encourage families with children to work.

Ad Book: We are about half way to our goal. Please sell ads and submit to Joanna Biliouris. Advertising: N/O representative recommends 2 print ads and everything else digital. The cost will be no greater than last year, but more will be digital. Readership is down 20,000 in last few months as trend to digital continues. Fairway has digital program that we tried last year, but N/O has this capability now and we will work with N/O.

Emails: once you have signed up to volunteer you should stop getting emails. Assigning shifts is just beginning.

Cooking: Lamb shanks will be done this Monday-Wednesday. Power in the kitchen has been redone to accommodate the braiser. Equipment is fixed and everything is now running with the correct power source.

Father Paul Christy Comments:

Rob does not have clear policy of requirements for parishioners who wish to sponsor coffee hour.

Dance groups: Dean Polisas and Maria Tsikerdanos.

Maria and Dean talked with Rob about talking with PC about issues with HDF.

Maria is the new director of dance ministry. They provided an update on the ministry. Maria would like the structure of the dance group to be codified. Her vision is that a committee of individuals directs the group, but if there is one individual who is willing and enthusiastic, this would also be welcome. Costumes continue to be an issue as the group grows and storage remains difficult. Maria is uncertain how many of which costumes are available for use. She and Dean answered questions from PC. She notes that no parents are assisting with the organization or teaching. Anita teaches the youngest group. Maria teaches 2 age groups and George and Emily each teach one group. She and Dean are not infrequently verbally chastised. They acknowledge that dance in some cases dance has become a babysitting services.

Dean discussed comparison in the way other parishes are involved with HDF. He reports that some use a committee to organize the different responsibilities, which is ideal and some have one enthusiastic individual who heads the groups. He feels the group is of value in that anytime more kids are involved with activities at church, it is an asset. The rate of burnout among teachers is great, there is no inventory or access to costumes. There are over 100 children enrolled in the program. Sydney Langford will assume role of collecting fees from the group. Jim Klemes would like to work with Maria and Dean and make a plan moving forward. Discussion followed.

A positive model is the Wilmington Parish. In this community, PC is involved with funding Hellenic dance and costumes. PC directs the group. Parental involvement is heavy. Every parent takes kids to HDF. Redirection and restructure is necessary. Harry Nicholas and George will not be attending the next HDF and volunteers will be required to participate. Dean notes that Metropolis events involving children require 2 adults to be present. This is not the current practice due to lack of volunteers. A parents meeting is scheduled in August. Father Paul will attend the meeting.

Father Paul Christy Comments

Helen Candace passed away recently and donated \$10,000. Father purchased 2 icons, Pascha and Pentecost, which will be placed in the Sanctuary. Altar boy robes were also purchased.

Father would like to enhance the fellowship hall, perhaps by painting murals. Thea Howell is an artist from the parish whose work he saw at a café.

Journey to Marriage on June 30 from 9AM to 4PM. : 7 couples scheduled to be in attendance. Vicky Perryman will host.

Presidents Comments: Mary Winstead

Clergy Laity: Due to local obligations, Mary will not attend Clergy Laity. The parish is well represented with Father Paul, Presbyteria Mary, Sydney, Lekita, and Stephanie Starr.

Please attend CCCM movie on Saturday.

Chelsea is pregnant with a due date of December 23. She will be on leave from choir duties for approximately 6 weeks. She will be hiring substitutes in her absence. She is requesting paid leave. Mary notes that we received \$500 dedicated to the choir from the Choir Chorale. This money is a possible source of payment. It would be preferable to have volunteer subs, perhaps from within the community.

Vallas property: The Vallas family counter offered \$925,000 for 2 parcels of land. Our attorney reviewed the proposal. We are waiting for final approval from family. It is expected that the contract will be available to sign this week and then due diligence will begin, with an expected time frame of 90 days.

Pews: Mary revisits the refurbishment of the pews. Sydney would like to move forward due to the poor condition of the pews. We are still uncertain of outcome of the insurance claim. We had a proposal with 3 options. One option was to restore the pews at an approximate cost of \$14,250. The pews will have a deep industrial clean, repair, seal, etc. Discussion followed with Mary Wehbie noting that it is a large sum of money when we have a new sanctuary as a goal. Others note that new sanctuary is years away and likely to cost \$6 million. Some updates will need to be done.

Motion to restore the pews at cost of \$14,200 subject to approval of money in the Vallas Memorial fund by the Vallas family by Sydney Langford. Second by Steve Flaherty. Motion carried. One opposed.

Pews: Mary offered a quote she heard "Whatever you do, do with all your heart." Pews have been left untidy on occasion. Mary reviewed how backs of pews should be presented so that the church looks inviting when people enter.

Old Business:

Maria Hicks reports that 75 tickets are sold to date for Durham Bulls Greek Heritage Night. Choir will be singing. Teens will be dancing. Fr. Paul will be throwing out the first pitch.

New Business:

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mary Wehbie at 9:10PM.

Closing Prayer: Father Paul Christy closed with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wehbie
PC Secretary