

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
September 19, 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.

Minutes: Minutes sent electronically in advance of the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Steve Flaherty. Seconded by Maria Hicks. Motion carried.

Members Present: John Demos, Leslie Dombalis, Steve Flaherty, Maria Hicks, Jason Kekas, Jim Klemes, Leon Kythas, Sydney Langford, Bob Lyford, Costa Panagos, Jim Riley, Steve Ryan, Mary Wehbie, Mary Winstead.

Member Absent: David Kouba.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Lyford

Bob reviewed the balance sheet. He noted balances in the various accounts. He pointed out decrease in Property and Maintenance Account due to expenses paid. He noted that sales tax refund has been applied for and he expects a refund of \$4000. We received \$15,000 from insurance for recent flooding. Bob reviewed P/L Sheet. He notes YTD income as of August 31 is up \$33,000 compared to 2017. Stewardship increase is \$42,000. Expenses are on budget year to date. Operating income as of August 3 is \$27,000. We budgeted a loss of \$8000, so are ahead of budget \$35,000.

The Archdiocese provided a statement that annual assessments were going to remain at 2017 rates. A clarification has been provided. The correct message is that the assessment to each Metropolis will not be increased. Individual parish allocations will be assessed based on expenses. The assessment for our parish will increase to \$55,000.

Bob notes that French Drive rental home shows a profit.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by John Demos. Seconded by Jason Kekas. Motion carried.

Budget Meeting: Bob Lyford

A budget meeting to prepare the 2019 budget needs to be held prior to October PC meeting and November General Assembly. Ministries need to submit requests for 2019 funding. All PC members should reach out to organizations for which they are liaisons and submit budget requests as soon as possible. Budget meeting will be held September 26 at 7PM.

Stewardship Update: John Demos

John Demos, Stewardship chair reports that we are slightly ahead of where we were last year at this time. 61 families have given toward stewardship but have not completed a pledge form. A reminder letter will be sent to these individuals or families. He anticipates that September will be a difficult month due to Labor Day, Greek Festival, and Hurricane Florence. He will schedule a date in October for "Catch Up Sunday".

Property/Maintenance update: Jim Klemes

Jim thanked Chris Pappas, George Kapetanakis, John Fakiris, and Penny Gallins who continue to spend much time and effort in the numerous maintenance needs of our aging facilities.

Jim hired Dave Hecker, a local handyman to assist in various chores. Dave is paid \$18 per hour to complete minor tasks. See attached document for services provided by Dave Hecker, maintenance items completed, storm preparations made, and upcoming projects with anticipated costs.

Festival Recap: Jason Kekas

Jason reports that despite several situations that worked against us, such as NCSU home football game and anticipation of Hurricane Florence, income was down only 6.1% from last year-- \$21,000. Pastries made \$100 less than last year. Income at festival was \$333,000. The Advertisement Book generated approximately \$28,000. He reports that we switched to gas at the Gyro booth. Temperature could be more easily controlled. Leon Kythas reported that in the Gyro booth, there was not anyone available to set up the booth or to work when it was time to open. Jason noted that there will be some changes to set up to streamline. Discussion followed regarding number of items for sale in this area. Jason reports that there was a capital cost for the propane equipment. A post festival meeting will be held in October. Date to be determined. Jason has checked schedules for next year. He reports that the

home show would like to move from Fairgrounds to the Convention Center. This would open the possibility of scheduling a date for the Festival for a time when NCSU does not have a home game.

When equipment is brought back from the festival, items in disrepair will be removed and repaired. There are opportunities to improve post festival clean up. Mary Winstead and the PC thanked Jason for all his efforts.

Several cases of Greek beer were not sold. Discussion followed whether St. John the Merciful would use it for its dinner dance.

Ministry Update: Leon Kythas

Leon reported on the following ministries for which he is a liaison- AHEPA and GOYA.

He reports that AHEPA would like to use Gyro meat, pita bread and lamb burgers at the International Festival. They will work with Jason on the cost. Leon provided a schedule of all activities in 2018. Wesley Starr is working on the 2019 schedule. Charlie Karvelas and Wesley Starr have moved organization forward with increased membership and activities.

Leon reports that GOYA is going through major changes. Stacey Nelson had the privilege of bringing in Alyssa Xouris to assist coaching girls volleyball. There are 15-17 girls participating with a possibility of having 3 teams. They are currently not playing in a league or tournament, but are looking into playing in a home school league. If there is a basketball team this may impact volleyball numbers. They are requesting approximately \$300 for a new net and balls.

Junior and senior boys basketball will have combined practices. They will schedule more practices during the week, as it gets closer to Winter Youth Rally. Team is transitioning from Bryce to John Dombalis as coach. They will play in Baptist league and look into tournaments as well.

GOYA has coaches for its activities and needs parental activity. Leon would like to get kids more empowered in activities of GOYA. This year will serve as a turning point. Meeting will be held tomorrow night with coaches from the teams. John and Christina Demos will serve as advisors. A common theme is that kids need to be involved and empowered. Leon notes that we are losing kids and they rarely come back. Leon and John caution that realigning GOYA is a multiyear project. This year will be a transition year. Leon reports that he had feedback that Rob initiated too much structure and kids stepped back. He envisions decreasing tasks in which Rob is not skilled and accentuating his strengths to position for strength.

Personnel Issues: Mary Winstead

Dwight Harris. PC initially committed to pay Dwight for 2 months. This time frame is drawing to a close. Mary asked for recommendations moving forward. Jim Klemes made a motion to continue payment to Dwight through November. Seconded by Maria Hicks. Motion carried.

John Demos made a motion to allow Mary Winstead to authorize an increase in Trey Harris' hours based on needs and Trey's availability. Seconded by Jason Kekas. Motion carried.

Chelsea Waddelow made proposal for coverage while she is on maternity leave. See attached for details. Chelsea requests PC to inform her whether she will be paid while she is on maternity leave so that she can plan. Elia Nicholas and Peter Kamarchik have indicated they will serve pro bono in her absence. Discussion followed. Motion to continue payment to Chelsea by Jim Klemes. Seconded by Leon Kythas. Motion carried.

General Assembly/Elections: Mary Winstead

General Assembly is November 18th. Mary requests that everyone consider potential candidates to serve on the Parish Council. Several individuals were mentioned. Father provided a list of individuals who completed two-year terms, those who will remain on the council, and those who completed two terms and are no longer eligible to serve.

Father Paul Christy Comments

Ms. Alga Araya from the Eritrean Orthodox Church requested use of the church for a Baptism and Liturgy. She expects 25-30 individuals to participate. Time will be 6am-12 noon. Coverage for services discussed.

Father Paul noted that the fall issue of Dialogist is set to go out.

Father Paul reviewed what is required for mailing for the General Assembly in November as well as the deadline for mailing.

Father Paul gave brief update on status of Dwight and thanked our community for helping Dwight's family in this time of need.

Presidents Comments: Mary Winstead

Mary thanked Jim Klemes and Chris Pappas for hurricane preparations made to protect church property. She thanked PC for 100% participation in Greek Festival.

Old Business:

Pews: Mary emailed Roxanne Serletis to see if she and Lee Newton reached agreement on refurbishing pews. She has not heard back to date.

Insurance quotes: Bob Lyford has not heard back on insurance quotes, but he feels that hurricane likely influenced timeline.

Coffee Hour: Coffee hour is sparse when food is not served. Suggestions include having ministries host coffee hour, PC sponsored coffee hour, or having the parish bring items based on an alphabetical system. By consensus the PC would like to trial the alphabet system. A note will be put in the bulletin that individuals with specific letters will bring an item to share on a particular Sunday. Mary Winstead will place an announcement.

Vallas property: We are in the final month of due diligence. Lawyers are looking at surveys and we are expected to close in October. Leon Kythas, Steve Ryan, and Leslie Dombalis will be on the committee to make recommendations for how the home and property should be used. Steve Ryan will head the committee.

Gussie's Food Truck will be available on November 18, date of General Assembly. He will give 20% of proceeds to the church.

We will have another Name Tag Sunday at a little date.

New Business:

Tree Complaint: A neighbor on Litchfield Downs Lane complained that there were some dead trees and requested that we have an arborist inspect. She feels they endanger her home. Jim Klemes will look into this. Mary recommends asking Allison Pockat for her input.

Byzantine flag: Jimmy Ellison purchased a yellow Byzantine flag. He would like to display at church. PC is in agreement. It can be on display in the hall.

There is now a bill counter in our counting room that can be used to double count weekly deposit. .

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM by Steve Flaherty.

Closing Prayer: Father Paul Christy closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Wehbie
PC Secretary