

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

15 March 2012

Members in Attendance: Barbara Rhenish, Walter Alesevich, Marina Poutiatine, Clare Nobles, Mark Pietrzykoski, Irina Burgener, Suzanne Tolstoy, John Stepanchuk, Ann Alaoglu, William Corcoran, Peter Vlasov, and Ken Mitchell

Absent: Marilyn Swezey and Michelle Smith

Clergy in Attendance: Father Valery Shemchuk and Father Denis Bradley

Meeting began at 7:05

Father Valery gave the Opening Prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved. It was decided after discussion to move the next PC meeting to April 26 2012, as no meetings are to be scheduled during Bright Week.

The February 2012 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. Only minor spelling items were noted and corrected.

Acting Dean's Report:

Father Valery thanked Suzanne and Marina for their work and success of this year's Maslenitsa and noted it was a wonderful evening. He indicated that St. Nicholas would keep the same and normal schedule for Lent and Pascha services. Father noted that attendance so far has been good at the Presanctified Liturgy. This year there are speakers after the service -- Joel Kalvesmaki and Daria Vervan both gave talks and next week is Fr. Maximus. On March 31st there is to be a Liturgy and program by the Metropolitan at St. John the Baptist (ROCOR) for Bishop Basil of Blessed Memory. The Metropolitan has indicated there will be one service for Palm Sunday. Concerns were raised on having just one service for Palm Sunday as it can lead to lower attendance for that Sunday.

A discussion occurred about the need of ordering extra pussy willows and palms for the Palm Sunday service.

Old Business

Maslenitsa:

Suzanne indicated the final numbers for attendance are not yet available, but the hall was filled. The event did better on money this year, but noted the Russian Embassy was very generous and did bill us, so we had no expenses from them. She said the Embassy donated everything we need. The Metropolitan sent a note of thanks to the Russian Ambassador along with flowers for his wife to show our appreciation. Susanne mentioned we have issued a donation check to the Pennsylvanian family whose house was recently destroyed.

2011 Audit:

John said he had attended the audit meetings and noted everything appears to be moving forward. The Audit Committee has the documents needed and so far reconciled most records. John suggested the committee might raise the issue as to the actual job description of the Church Treasurer. John mentioned two more committee meetings are scheduled.

Kitchen Renovation:

Barbara expressed that the preliminary documents have been signed with the donor for funding the \$300,000.00 She further said now is the time to create a working committee to oversee the next project steps. Also she noted that Michele's uncle (who several months ago provide a brief overview of what would be required for this project) has agreed to continue providing advice on what is required. The next steps would include developing a design and getting contractor bids. The purpose of the kitchen renovation is to redesign the entire basement floor; including bathrooms and achieving required DC code compliance. Some additional details about the project include: using licensed vendors., no brokerage account is required, and the first payment from the donor comes when we hire a firm to do the work. Barbara recommended the following members for the Renovation Committee: Charles from the Facilities Committee, Michele Smith, Suzanne Tolstoy, , Nadina Gjurich, Irina Panyutin, Mark Pietrzykoski, with herself serving as chair.

Nina S. is reviewing the annual parish meeting minutes

New Business

Lenten Project:

Claire mentioned a project for the Sunday school children for Lent. There is a charity program called "The Pajama Program" which supplies new pajamas and books for children in homeless

shelters waiting to be adopted. So St. Nicholas Sunday school will try to do this as a project. Our children will try to raise money to buy new books and pajamas. In general this is a well thought of charity.

On Going Tax Status with the District:

The District has still not yet restored the St. Nicholas tax-exempt status. We have a bill for due taxes on the Rectory. We have sent a letter and asked for a ruling about our status. This is a letter from the Parish Council President to DC Tax Office. We have been continuing to wait on a response from the District.

Committee Reports

History and Archives:

No report

Budget and Finance:

The budget for the month has been submitted. Regarding the OCA census and assessment, we are still working with the OCA (Syosset) and the Washington, DC Diocese on our actual numbers for this year's census and assessment.

Stewardship:

No report

Facilities:

Mark asked for clarity on requesting for bids to repair the Annex roof. The answer was that costs under \$3,000.00 can go out for bid without PC approval. mark also indicated a need to ascertain if the steps and sidewalks around the Cathedral needed repairs. George N. is looking into information on electrical items needing repairs. It was noted that the Bell Tower has undergone damage and the bells and chimes need fixing. Also, the button to control the bells is now broke (the chiming box). Additionally, water is again getting into the Bell Tower. Council requested that the "mason expert" be asked to see what needs to be fixed. The Issue about the storage sheds around the Annex was raised again. Father Denis suggested maybe that the Priests should talk to Sasha Y.

Legal and By-Laws:

As mentioned earlier, the District is slow in moving forward on our tax-exempt situation. The Cathedral has received another bill with penalty and interest payment demands. This is a bill for

2012 plus back owed taxes as well. Walter talked to one of the City's representatives and they are working supposedly on it. It has now been sent to the DC General Counsel Office for consideration. Regarding the telephone billing, Nina is working on the Verizon bill issue.

Outreach:

Next week Irina and others are working with our friends at St. Luke Lutheran Church on feeding the homeless.

Closing Prayer delivered by Father Valery.

Adjourned at 7:55PM

Next Meeting was set for 26 April 2012 7PM