

## St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting

*Minutes*

May 17, 2012

Member in attendance:

***Barbara Rhenish, Walter Alesevich, Marina Poutiatine, Claire Nobles, Mark Pietrzykoski, Suzanne Tolstoy, John Stepanchuk, Ann Alaoglu, William Corcoran, Michele Smith, and Ken Mitchell***

Members absent:

***Marilyn Swezey, Irina Burgener, and Peter Vlasov***

Clergy in attendance:

***Fr. Valery Shemchuk, and Father Denis Bradley***

Meeting began at 7:05PM upon determining a quorum of members were in attendance.

Father Valery led the Council in opening prayer.

### **Acting Dean's Report:**

There will be only one Liturgy on Pentecost Sunday celebrated by his Beatitude.

In June the Cathedral will have several special visits after Pentecost.

In June there is a theological conference to be held here in DC. Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) will be in attendance and will come after the conference to concelebrate a Liturgy at St. Nicholas with Metropolitan Jonah on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There will be a visit by Sister Vassa (Larin), a nun now living in Vienna, Austria who is affiliated with ROCOR. She is a professor of Liturgical Studies at the University of Vienna and a protégé of Fr. Toft, She will visit with us on June 16 and give a talk on "Why study the history of the Liturgy?" with questions and answers afterwards.

The venerable ***Myrrh-Streaming Icon of Hawaii*** will also come to the Cathedral in June.

### **Old Business:**

#### ***Kitchen and Hall Renovation***

Today was the due date for the proposal and only one application has been submitted. There were three firms that said they would submit proposals. A committee is already established to hold a meeting to review the proposals and make a recommendation.

It was suggested that after the committee reviews it should submit this recommendation to the Council for final review. Additionally, Barbara indicated she has had further talks with the donor and the donor is open to an additional appeal for funding if the Council decides on additional needs and develop a formal request proposal

*Rectory.*

The Cathedral has received a 30-day extension on the tax issue from the DC government. The bill so far from our attorney is \$275 dollars for his work.

The house needs to be ready for the new parish priest. The priest will likely need immediate space of a bedroom, bedroom furniture and maybe office space and furniture.

*2012 Fall Festival.*

Severn volunteers from the parish have been recruited to head and lead the effort for the Fall Festival. Based on this outcome, the Council gave the “go-ahead” for the Festival to take place on October 13 and 14. It was also agree there would be no single chair, but rather the seven would act as a coordinating committee to oversee the management of the festival.

*Maslenitsa.*

Marina reported that in going over the accounts another \$175 dollars was discovered as proceeds.

**New Business**

*Executive Session.*

The Council entered into executive session at 7:50PM

The Council ended its executive session at 8:05PM

**Committee Reports**

*Budget and Finance.*

Michele submitted the April budget and finance report. We are now 1/3 through the fiscal year. We are slightly above revenue due to Pascha giving. The overall budget is on normal course for this point in the fiscal year. Expenses are in line and under good control. We now have a slight surplus.

Michele offered a brief comparison by indicating that while this year’s parish members have decreased, the amount of actual giving this year is higher. It is almost nine percent higher than last year.

Michele also said that positive fund balances from several accounts were transferred to the reserve fund. Hopefully, it will be possible to build a healthy reserve fund of six months ahead.

Michele talked with DC Diocese about the changes the Cathedral wishes to make to its submitted census figures. Diocese authorities said we would have to ask the Metropolitan directly to get a change in our assessment. This difference amounts to a \$5,000 dollar difference in assessment fees. Michele will ask the Metropolitan for a change or waiver.

A discussion then ensued around office computers. One office computer is old and needs replacing. Also a second computer used for accounting needs to be replaced. Michele agreed to work with Father Valery to see how the budget could accommodate these needs.

#### *Stewardship.*

A report is developed detailing information on 2011 and 2012 pledges and donors. For 2011 there were 145 pledges, though there were 117 additional individuals who donated money, but did not pledge. This year, 2012, there are 106 pledges. There is a substantial difference between this year and last year.

Marina asked the question, are we on an even keel for the year? She suggested the next four or five month will tell. Also, Marina indicated the Council had asked for the committee to look at the census and organize the census book by going through all the names. As a result, a significant amount of names appear on the census roles over the last ten years who are at this point not known to us. As a next step, Michele and Marina will look at the list and try to reconcile who on the census role is no longer a viable parish member.

#### *Facilities.*

The holes upstairs in the Annex have been repaired. Mark is obtaining estimates on repairing the sidewalks. Also Mark said he would be working on the gardens around the Cathedral. Sasha said he would tear down the sheds. But, the garage is full of items in storage for the Metropolitan's parents; therefore there is no place to put the items under the sheds.

#### *Legal and Bylaws*

Our lawyer has obtained a 30-day extension for the Rectory Tax Bill. However, the lawyer is not optimistic about the possibility of having our tax liability owed before January of this year forgiven.

#### *Outreach.*

*No report*

All led the Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting set for June 14, 2012

Council concluded upon call for adjournment at 8:30PM