

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting, 25 April 2013

Members present: Marina Poutiatine, Marilyn Swezey, Barbara Rhenish, Michele Smith, Walter Alesevich, Mark Pietrzykoski, Ann Alaoglu, Bill Corcoran, Suzanne Tolstoy, Claire Nobles

Clergy: Father Valery Shemchuk, Father George Kokhno

Visitors: Tom Sigler, George Nartsissov

Absent: Father John Perich, Father Denis Bradley

25 April 2013, 7:10 PM

Opening Prayer: O Heavenly King, led by Father Valery

Agenda: Walter Alesevich moved to approve agenda; motion seconded and carried.

March 2013 Minutes: Walter moved to approve minutes as amended; motion seconded and carried.

Acting Dean's Report: none

Associate Pastor's Report: none

Assistant Pastor's Report: Father Valery commented that it was great to be in the renovated church hall. He thanked Michele Smith, George Nartsissov, and Mark Pietrzykoski who had worked so hard to renovate the Church Hall. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will be coming this next Thursday at 7 PM. Lazarus Saturday will be the same as usual: Divine Liturgy, luncheon, and children's crafts. The Cathedral is still going through hard times; thanks for all that everyone is doing. We will go forward with God's Providence.

Old Business

Renovation:

Michele Smith stated that we have passed all milestones in the renovation process, and we still have inspection. George Nartsissov has the final details. Contingency funds for building the gift corner and children's area--the cabinet work and milling--will be done if we pass health inspection and need to make no more kitchen modifications. Michele wants to thank the committee members; they all cooperated to get the job done.

Mark Pietrzykoski has tested the kitchen by making kulich for Pascha. Mark stated that we did a good job with the renovation, and we should be proud of what we did.

Walter Alesevich wants to commend the committee and the contractor, who completed the work on time.

George Nartsissov wants to commend Michele Smith's effort and her uncle's.

Michele stated that the bathrooms may be the next project. She might put a motion together for the Annual Meeting, because this is something the parish would need to vote on.

Maslenitsa:

Marina Poutiatine is working with St. John's to finalize everything. She hopes to have a check next month for our share of the Maslenitsa proceeds.

Annual Meeting: Barbara Rhenish stated that the Annual Meeting announcement needs to be put in the bulletin. It will be 2 June after a single Divine Liturgy.

Rectory Taxes: Barbara Rhenish has asked for relief from DC as of Monday this week. Walter Alesevich looked over her letter for legal issues. We hope that the District will remove penalties when they see how many expenses we have--around \$100,000.

Tom Sigler stated that one approach is to offer DC the \$9,000 now if the District will forgive the penalties.

We would like to reduce the \$9,000 tax bill first, if possible, according to Barbara Rhenish and Walter Alesevich.

New Business

Cemetery Issues:

Marina Poutiatine stated that a parishioner wants to sell a cemetery plot back to the church, but the deed process is complicated. Marina checked with Rock Creek Cemetery. The cemetery has a list of plots and who owns each, but their list is incomplete. For the Cathedral, the cemetery says the last plot was bought in 1989, but that is incorrect. We need to go back to at least 2004 and find out who has bought plots. We may have to work with the cemetery to fix records. Plots were \$1,000 for two, upper and lower, but Parishioners may not be aware of how it works. Father Valery reported that he sold a plot for \$4,300., because that is what Rock Creek sells them for. St. John's Church sells the plots for \$4,600.

Someone asked if we have member and nonmember prices for the plots. We should table the issue, and Marina Poutiatine may bring a motion about the plots to our next meeting.

Marina cannot take on this cemetery project. We need lists of who has plots and who has deeds. Diana Gwenn is the contact at Rock Creek Cemetery. She needs to compare our list with theirs at the cemetery.

Marina Poutiatine provided a list of procedures for cemetery plots:

The procedure for buying a plot at Rock Creek Cemetery:

1. Parishioner puts in a request with St. Nicholas Cathedral.
2. Parishioner goes to Rock Creek Cemetery and asks Diane Gwenn to show them available plots.
3. Once plot(s) is/are chosen, they come back to St. Nicholas and pay for it.
4. St. Nicholas then sends a letter to Rock Creek Cemetery giving the full names, address and phone number of the purchaser with the plot information (section, lot, site numbers).
5. Rock Creek Cemetery then sends a deed to that plot to the purchaser. Until this is done, the purchaser does not own it and there could be problems and delays at time of burial.

Pascha:

Walter Alesevich wants to know who will take the collection and prepare the Artos for Pascha. The inquiry was made whether George Nartsissov will coordinate the collection. This year there is a drop safe in the office to make it easy to store money. On Bright Saturday we will count the Holy Week and Pascha collections. Will we raise price of candles for Pascha? We need to have Basket Blessing schedule.

Bill Corcoran will be helping Walter Alesevich count money this week.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: no report

Personnel: Barbara Rhenish states that we are looking into what we still need to pay for unemployment. Tatjana was on unemployment for 26 weeks with the Cathedral. Barbara Ashton, the office manager, may need to be paid; the District will tell us.

Ten-minute recess to celebrate Sharon Osmolovsky's birthday and thank her for all of the work she is doing for the Cathedral. The Clergy and Parish Council presented Sharon with flowers, a card, and a gift.

Budget and Finance:

Tom Sigler stated the cathedral has \$992,000 in funds.

Charitable contributions were more than was expected.

A cemetery plot was sold. We have a gain of \$3,000, but haven't had to pay the OCA assessment due to payments owed to us.

We are doing better on collections than the budget: a total of 137 pledge forms, 29 couples. This is roughly the same money as last year, but a different combination of amounts, with some parishioners giving less, some more.

Marina: We cannot tell about pledges at this time of the year. Only 18 paid pledges have been paid in full. Some pledges were submitted late.

Tom Sigler provides details of this year's 137 pledges:

34 gave less than \$500.

43 gave \$500. to \$1,000.

38 gave \$1,000. to \$2,500.

17 gave \$2,501. to \$5,000.

5 gave in excess of \$5,000.

Tom Sigler is concerned that we need to come up with new ways to raise funds. If any of the parish's top donors leaves, it would have a large effect on revenue.

Administrative expenses are \$5,000. more than we budgeted.

Utilities: We did better because of warm winter.

Facilities: no report

Legal and By-Laws:

Walter Alesevich and the Committee are working on the by-laws to change from 12 to nine the number of council members and to change process of proxy voting. Father John Perich is opposed to proxy voting. Committee is clarifying language about term limits, about officers, and changing date of Annual Parish Meeting. According to current by-laws, Annual Meeting is in the last quarter, but the committee recommends 1st quarter of the new year.

Paschal Breakfast: Michele Smith is working with a group toward Outreach for Paschal Morning breakfast--donors have contributed for hospitality spread. It is a great opportunity to attract new members. Michele's group may put St. Nicholas Cathedral postcards out, along with dyed eggs.

Parish Council Elections:

Barbara Rhenish asked who is going to run the election? Priests will need to vet the applicants. She will ask Ken Mitchell if he will run election. Marina Poutiatine will put together list of

eligible voters. Parish council members may make recommendations of potential candidates to priests.

Ann Alaoglu and Peter Vlasov are our current alternates.

Barbara Rhenish is ending her term.

Marina Poutiatine and Bill Corcoarn are coming off council at the end of the year.

Father Valery recently visited Dee Krisa and took her Holy Communion. She is not feeling very well and wants us to pray for her.

Suzanne Tolstoy moved to adjourn; motion was seconded and carried.

Closing Prayer: Fathers George and Valery led the group in It Is Truly Meet.

Meeting ends at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting 23 May 2013 7PM