

Minutes
December 15, Council Meeting

Present: Fr. Valery, Bill Corcoran, Irina Panyutin. Peter Vlasov, Tim Keefer, Catherine Vangellow, Irina Burgener, John Stepanchuk, Marina Poutiatine, Suzanne Tolstoy

Absent: Joel Kalvesmaki, Svetlana Moser, Walter Alesevich

Guests: Anne Alaoglu, Claire Nobles, Ken Mitchell, Mark Pietrzykoski, Michele Smith, Marilyn Swezey

Opening prayer and Many Years to Barbara Rhenish on her birthday (16th).

The Agenda was unanimously approved with Bill Corcoran's motion and Suzanne Tolstoy's second.

The Minutes were approved as amended by email with Marina Poutiatine's motion and Irina Panyutin's second.

Pastor's Report:

-Fr. Valery announced the schedule for the week before Nativity. There will be no midnight liturgy, only a 9am one as it is Sunday. The reason for this is the Christmas luncheon and Art Sale.

-He reported on the funeral of Gennady Platoff held at Arlington Cemetery with full military honors. Fr. Gleb was unable to come.

-He thanked all Council members, those coming on and those leaving for working hard, supporting St. Nicholas and meeting all challenges.

-He raised the issue of the lateness with which motions are presented at meetings and asked that all motions in the future be presented by email 2-3 days prior to meetings. Barbara Rhenish suggested we formalize this issue with a motion at the January 2012 meeting.

Old Business:

Icon Book: Marilyn Swezey reported on her ongoing work with Mary Jane Cincotta on color corrections for the book. She also graciously offered to cover the cost of the designer. She asked for the Council's approval to go forward once the financial numbers are determined. Michele Smith will work on the distribution/sale plan in the new year. The timeline for all this is still nebulous.

Kitchen Renovation: Michele Smith spoke about the meeting that was held with her uncle, John Smith, a kitchen consultant, and several parishioners/Council members who had an active interest. Her uncle suggested some items that should be dealt with immediately such as the removal of the lead paint in the dish washing room, cleaning of the vent system, taking the appliances off the floor, and moving the range which currently stands under an electric panel. Michele's uncle, John Cornyn, said the renovation could cost up to \$200,000. Our next step should be to decide exactly what we want the kitchen to do and then ask an architect to tell us what needs to be done to bring us up to code. Barbara Rhenish suggested we have to have a parish meeting in light of the size of the expenditure. Irina Panyutin suggested we could phase the project. Bill Corcoran asked why this project? Answer: Vladyka wanted a community project that everyone could get behind and we have to address the sanitation and fire hazards. It was suggested that by the January meeting the Facilities Committee evaluate which issues would be considered required maintenance vs those that would be considered capital improvements in such a project.

Balanced Budget: Michele Smith stated that she would NOT feel comfortable taking on the Treasurer's position until expenditures in the budget were under control. As recently passed, the current budget is not balanced. Assuming nothing "bad" happens, St. Nicholas will be insolvent by next November. We cannot rely on the proceeds of the Bazaar to cover our debt and there is no way to know how pledges will come in. The B&F Committee will meet January 3, 2012 and investigate how to cut expenses. Bill Corcoran suggested following Michele's lead. From his experience he foresees that most non-profits will be "bleeding" in 2012. Michele offered to prepare a power point presentation to show how we got to this point. She feels solutions can come only after identifying the problems.

In response to Timothy Keefer's question about our total assets, John Stepanchuk said we have ca. \$500,000 as of 11/22/11.

Mark Pietryzkoski asked if Vladyka is aware of our problems. Barbara said yes, but he still wants two priests. Fr. Valery suggested we work with those that are affiliated with St. Nicholas--Fr. Denis, Fr. George, Fr. Maximus.

According to Irina Burgener, The Warm Coat/Homeless Outreach Project was a big success from all standpoints. Everyone went away with something and the soup kitchen was wiped out by 2pm. She requested donations for their weekend food pantry.

The meeting was extended.

Stewardship: After a discussion of the numbers of donors (421 for 2010, 522 for 2011), it was requested that a study examine why 64 people-some couples- left the parish in 2011.

The motion to adjourn was put forth by Timothy Keefer and seconded by Irina Burgener.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Tolstoy