St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting, 21 March 2013

Members Present: Barbara Rhenish, Marina Poutiatine, Suzanne Tolstoy, Walter Alesevich, Mark Pietrzykoski, John Stepanchuk, Ann Alaoglu, William Corcoran, Claire Nobles

Members Absent: Ken Mitchell, Suzanne Tolstoy, Peter Vlasov, Michele Smith

Clergy in Attendance: Father Denis Bradley, Father Valery Shemchuk

Guest: Tom Sigler, Dan Schuresko

The meeting began at : 7:15 PM

Opening Prayer: Father Denis led everyone in "O Heavenly King."

Parish Secretary was absent, and Claire Nobles volunteered to take minutes.

Agenda was reviewed. It was announced that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 2 June. Claire Nobles moved that the amended Agenda be approved. The Agenda was approved by all.

January Minutes were not available because of the Secretary's illness and the topic of Minutes was tabled.

Father Denis Bradley: Father John Perich, the Acting Dean, would be coming to St. Nicholas on 14 April and serving liturgy. Fr. John also will be at St. Nicholas next week. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, will be coming to St. Nicholas for all of Holy Week.

Associate Pastor's Report: Father George Kokhno is serving at St. Luke's in McLean and cannot attend the Council meeting.

Assistant Pastor's Report: Father Valery Shemchuk had nothing to add.

<u>Old Business</u>

Renovation: skipped

Maslenitsa: Marina Poutiatine will close the books on the fundraiser; it will take six to seven weeks. The Russian Embassy will be paid tomorrow. Marina stated for the record that "Father John [Perich] deserves a big thank you for the Silent Auction and for buying three tables." Marina and Suzanne Tolstoy wrote Father John a note of thanks. Also, we need to write a letter of thanks to the Russian Embassy and the Ambassador on behalf of St. Nicholas. It was decided that Father Valery will write

the letter in Russian and Father John Perich would sign it. It was noted that the Russian Ambassador invited Father John Perich to his home. Also, Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress, and Congressman Jim Symington extended invitations to Father John Perich to an event at the Library of Congress.

New Business

Lazarus Saturday, Paschal Preparation Day: Claire Nobles asked the Council whether we should have the Paschal Preparation Day in the Annex or in the Church Hall. The decision was made to have the event in the Annex because of the need for time-consuming transfer of kitchen supplies to the Church Hall after its renovation. The Council also decided to simplify the Paschal Preparation Day because we had less space than usual for serving lunch and having children's crafts. It was recommended that Claire notify Andrea Lutov of the plans so that she could plan for the Pysanky decorating. Claire mentioned that the organizers hoped that the Paschal Preparation Day would be advertised to all parishioners and not just children.

Pascha Events: The subject of a Paschal Breakfast after the midnight Liturgy was brought up. No one had volunteered to coordinate the breakfast. Claire Nobles agreed to coordinate it. Ann Alaoglu suggested that Claire reach out to Irina Panyutin, who had coordinated the breakfast and cooked most of the food for the past two years. Michele Smith had already volunteered to coordinate the Paschal Breakfast after the morning liturgy because of the need for outreach to those who attend.

Committee Reports

Budget and Finance: Tom Sigler reported that of $1.048 million in the bank, $342,000 will go for the church Hall renovation. We are close to our budget—within $1,000. The pledges for this year are tracking with what was pledged. Gift Corner should not be under Long-Term Endowment—it has its own account. We are trending down in the 1st Quarter.

Marina Poutiatine and Tom: We received more pledges in 2013 but less money pledged overall.

Long-term is the same thing as bequests—money can be borrowed from the long-term endowment but must be repaid. Maybe we should have rules for Gift Corner management.

The Council extends its thanks to Tom Sigler for his efforts during the busiest time of the year for him--tax season.

Tom Siegler: Brought up the subject of gift-matching for OCA for icon preservation. Also, St. Nicholas has a business model based on free-will offering and bequests. Let's come up with a new way to raise money.

Walter Alesevich needs someone to help with money counting, and John Stepanchuk volunteered.

Stewardship: No report.

Personnel:
Barbara Ashton Tate, our former Office Manager has filed for unemployment with the DC government. Her dates of employment on her application are inconsistent with her time of employment at St. Nicholas. Her time with us was under six months, which is the minimum time to be eligible for unemployment, but over the minimum amount of earnings to be eligible. More research will be undertaken to sort this out.

Legal and By-Laws: Walter Alesevich reports that Verizon has been unable to produce our service contract. We are doing our due-diligence by our monthly phone call to check on the contract status, but will not pay them until they produce the contract..

The legal and by-laws committee is redoing the by-laws and will make a first pass on the issue in its meeting next Tuesday.

Barbara Rhenish: Can we reduce the number of Parish Council Members from 12 to 9?
Marina Poutiatine: Can we change the quarter for the Annual Parish Meeting to the 1st Quarter, when we used to have the meeting? We plan our Parish budget without pledge forms, and we need the numbers from the previous year.

Another question: Is there a waiting period after changing the Parish Council member numbers?

Barbara Rhenish: DC has not forgiven the tax debt on the Rectory and DC government cannot find the form from St. Nicholas requesting tax relief (?) We owe about $24,000 in taxes and the amount is growing because of penalties. Barbara is worried DC could auction the Rectory to reclaim taxes. Our lawyer on the rectory issue said we should write a letter to the DC Real Property Tax Board asking for debt forgiveness. It recently forgave $600 of our current bill, and we might be able to have more forgiven.

Father Denis Bradley: Do we need to search for the DC tax form?

$24,702.20 due to DC, with a base amount more than $18,000.

Could we write a letter for debt forgiveness detailing our major repair costs, including concrete work, as well as our Outreach efforts—Christ House (how much

per month?) and Friendship Place (check with John Stepanchuk and Catherine Vangellow). We should send the letter registered with return receipt requested.

Facilities: Mark Pietrzykoski – no report. Wednesdays at 7 AM, they meet with the construction company to discuss the renovation. The work will be completed by 19 April, and the contractors are on time.

Barbara Rhenish asks for motion to adjourn and Walter moved that we adjourn.

Closing Prayer: Father Denis Bradley led the group in "It is Truly Meet."

Next Meeting will be 25 April at 7:00 PM.