

St. Nicholas Parish Council
Recorded Meeting Minutes
18 September 2014

Members in Attendance: Claire Nobles, Peter Vlasov, Mark Pietrzykoski, Paul Moser, Ken Mitchell, Sharon Osmolovsky, Suzanne Tolstoy, Nino Burjanadze, Ivan Andonov (Deputy), and Walter Alesevich (Deputy)

Clergy in Attendance: Father George Kokhno and Father Valery Shemchuk

Members Absent: Elena Panomarenko and Michele Smith

The meeting commenced at 7 PM with a quorum present.

Opening Prayer:

Everyone joined in “Oh Heavenly King”

Approval of Agenda:

Claire N. requested an approval of the presented agenda. Walter A. motioned to approve the agenda. A vote was taken and all members present voted for the approval motion.

Approval of Last Month’s Meeting Minutes:

Claire N. asked for an approval of the August PC meeting minutes. After several minor changes Walter A. offered a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The PC then voted with nine members approving and there was one abstention.

Father George Kokhno's Report:

Father George noted that the Fall Bazaar is now the main focus for the Cathedral. He also stated meetings for recovering alcoholics has begun with a group that will be meeting at the parish, for which, he will be advising. This group helps further a way of introducing people outside our parish about St. Nicholas.

Father Valery Shemchuk's Report:

Father Valery told that we had several baptisms over the last week with quite a number of family and friends in attendance. He said that Peter V. had filmed videos of these baptisms for the Cathedral’s archives.

Claire N. mentioned that Fr. George and Fr. Valery have been very attentive for two of our very ill parishioners over the course of the last several weeks.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning Working Group Projects.

Ken Mitchell indicated that at the last meeting the PC had approved the starting of two new programs at the Cathedral: one for language courses and one for young adults. There have been

preliminary meetings of both and progress is being made towards starting these two groups. He also said he had drafted a memo for the parish updating our members on the progress of strategic planning and this memo would be soon sent out to parishioners.

Fall Bazaar Update.

Father George indicated all the parts of the Bazaar are now coming together very well and that we now have a “on-line volunteer schedule” for parishioners to sign up for working during the bazaar weekend. Suzanne T. said she had suggested the on-line site of *Signup.com*, as it was a very good one. Fr. George said that Mary Jane Maxwell, the Bazaar coordinator, was adding new ideas this year for an educational program, bringing monks from the New Skete Monastery to give talks on spirituality, iconography and on raising their world famous dogs. Also, he said Irina Panyutina is well underway in buying the items for our food preparations. Claire N. asked council members to sign up to encourage others to sign up. Father George indicated there has been a wide range of promotional announcements sent out about the bazaar.

New Business:

Suzanne T. said the Benevolent Fund had received a check for \$1,000.00 from the Russian American Cultural Society.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance.

Claire N. said that our Treasurer, Elena P. is on travel but has submitted her report.

Operating	\$ 31,078
Reserve	<u>\$255,422</u>
Total Operations	\$286,500
Major Repairs	\$ 68,053
Property Acquisitions	<u>\$201,206</u>
Total Facilities	\$269,259
Gift Corner	\$ 80,678
Long Term Endowment	\$ 57,596
Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,239
Benevolent Fund	\$144,382
Shandor Memorial Fund	<u>\$ 1,196</u>
Total Benevolent & Education	\$148,116
Total of All Funds	\$842,849

Stewardship.

Paul M. said he is taking over the Stewardship position and he needs to work closely with Elena P. to get up to speed on the all the tasks. It was noted that Marina Poutiatine has also agreed to help on this effort as well. Claire N. suggested that we needed to send out the yearly Stewardship Letter to the parishioners earlier this year. It was noted we would discuss the timetable for this letter at the next council meeting.

Personnel.

Nino W. said we have now transitioned the bookkeeping position to full time and that Zene has accepted the position. Nino said she had conducted an analysis of salaries of clergy from around the DC metropolitan area and has asked the Treasurer and the Budget and Finance Committee to review the findings. She noted, that we are paying our clergy significantly less in comparison to other local parishes.

Mark P. suggested that we need a full time person on site to receive and manage vendors, deliveries and other items related to Cathedral business. He indicated we had another problem with a delivery this current week.

Nino W. said she talked had talked with Sasha last Sunday about his future plans. Sasha mentioned he has no immediate plans right now of leaving his work at the Cathedral. Claire N. said we should be actively thinking and planning on how to replace Sasha in any regard. She said as of now, we do not have the funds to be able to replace him if he leaves at some point. She suggested that it is likely that about an additional \$30,000 needs to be added to the budget for the position once he leaves. She further noted that when Sasha leaves, we would need to determine how we might have to review the legalities of making the basement of the Annex as a legal residential unit under the ordinances of the DC Government. She reminded everyone that use of the Rectory is off limits, as it is for clergy only.

Facilities.

Ivan A. suggested there may be a way to connect the heating and air-condition system that will integrate all properties ACHS into a single remote digital control for adjusting the temperatures. This technology could help stabilize areas across the three properties that are losing heat and in the case of the Rectory and Cathedral, cooling.

Mark P. said as the result of an overall property assessment, he now has a list our major repair priorities.

Ivan A. said he now has purchased the security cameras and equipment and wiring – and would begin installation as his time permits.

Sharon O. and Father George have developed a set of banners welcoming visitors to the Cathedral that would be placed around the property for people passing by to see.

Legal and By-Laws.

Nino W. indicated two items the committee is working on. She said the next meeting is for work on the Cathedral's standing rules and that meeting is set for October 24th. She said members now have a new draft text of the rules and that we are getting comments on the draft.

Nino W. said we had reached an agreement with the trailer renting vendor company that had issued a complaint against us on a trailer renting issue. She said we have submitted a payment and we are finalizing all the paper work to settle the complaint.

Adjournment:

At 8:05PM Walter A. moved that the meeting adjourn. The PC voted unanimously in favor.

Closing Prayer:

A prayer was led by all present

Next Meeting: 23 October 2014, 7PM

These minutes have been prepared and submitted on October 22, 2014 by Council Secretary Ken Mitchell.

Approved:

President of the St. Nicholas Cathedral Parish

Priest for the Cathedral

Date