

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

17 January 2013

Members in Attendance: ***Barbara Rhenish, Walter Alesevich, Marina Poutiatine, Claire Nobles, Mark Pietrzykoski, Ann Alaoglu, Suzanne Tolstoy, Ken Mitchell, William Corcoran, John Stepanchuk, and Peter Vlasov***

Members Absent: ***Michele Smith and Marilyn Swezey,***

Clergy in Attendance: ***Fr. Denis Bradley, Fr. George Kokhno and Fr. Valery Shemchuk***

The meeting began at 7:10PM with a quorum being present.

Father George led the PC in the opening prayer.

The meeting Agenda was reviewed. Walter put forward the motion to accept the agenda. A second was given and the motion was passed by all present.

The December meeting minutes were reviewed and corrections were offered. Claire offered the motion to accept the minutes with the corrections. A second was offered and the minutes were adopted by all present.

Clergy Reports

No Administrator's report

Associate Pastor's Report: Father George stated that Father John and all the Clergy are very pleased with the work performed by the PC over the past year. The Council likewise indicated its gratitude with the work the Clergy had performed on behalf of the Cathedral over the last year as well. Sharon Osmolovsky is now working in the office on a voluntary basis.

Assistant Pastor's Report: Father Valery indicated that the worship services are going very well at this point. Also the "Old Calendar" Christmas services were a great success. Old Calendar Christmas netted about \$5,000 plus good gift corner sales.

Announcements are going well by using e-mail blasts

Fr. Valery said that he has visited all homebound people -- several who have not had visited for several years. Plus, communion was administered to several in nursing homes who had not had communion in several years. The office continues to be cleaned and made more efficient. It will be painted tomorrow,

Barbara recognized Father George for doing a great job with the office and with communications to the Parish. Father John wants the priests to visit all those who

have historically been associated with St. Nicholas. We need to be reaching out more to different communities pastorally, Also he noted that Sharon Osmolovsky has performed a great job working in the office and really has been amazing.

As for the Sunday school, we are still learning on what needs to be done.

Old Business

Renovation

Permits are coming next week. We are waiting for one more permit. Hopefully starting next week. The contract is to be signed on Feb. 2, 2013. The renovation will start on Feb. 18, 2013. There will be a HAZMAT removal on March 7, 2013 – March 11, 2013. The project is to be completed on April 19, 2013.

What to do about coffee hour? The idea is to use the annex kitchen and serve limited refreshments; possibly do some serving outside the annex. Council indicated it was important to keep coffee hour going for socialization. Father John indicated he too was interested in keeping the coffee hour going and tries to figure out ways to rearrange the Sunday school classrooms to accommodate the coffee hour. So the priests will review Sunday school space and office and come up with a solution. Hopefully starting Sunday, Feb. 3rd. But right now, it is thought that Fr. John's Office and the Church's office space can be used for Sunday school.

Enthronement.

The projected turn out is low at this point, about 118 names have signed up for the banquet. St. Nicholas will have two tables: one for clergy and one from paying parishioners. We are still in need of volunteers to drive and attend the visiting VIPs. Marina asked Syosset to arrange for the volunteers. There are meetings with the hotel to finalize the menu. Suzanne, Walter, and Marina will register the guests at the banquet. Still needed are volunteers for the Synod's meeting on Monday at St. Nicholas. Also still needed, are volunteers to help with coffee for the VIPS after the Enthronement Liturgy on Sunday. St Mathew's Church parishioners and also Claire Nobles are helping with the "goody bags" that will have snacks and other personal care items

New Business

Maslenitsa

Suzanne reported that the committee had the first organizational "kick off" meeting. Suzanne also has met with the Russian Embassy. The event has been set for March 15, 2013. The theme for this year is the Cupola. We have a food team of volunteer workers. The ticket price is set at \$175.00 per ticket. We are now asking for

donations to the stock the “silent auction”. St. John’s will continue to partner with us again. Though this year St. Nicholas is taking a bigger lead role than St. John. The Cupola Theme will be the center piece and we will use Hersey Kisses as surprises. Possibly 90 pounds of chocolate. We are now working on the entertainment.

Committee Reports

History and Archives.

Rich Smith is willing to be the new chair for the committee. Father Denis nominated him and the Council agreed.

We have a paper copy of the Icon Book that was prepared by Marilyn Swezey, now available at the Candle Counter in the church. Also, Deacon Michael Korolev can aid in helping us with the Icon Book.

Stewardship.

Marina reported the following on the 2013 pledges. As of January 14, 2013 we have 126 pledge forms handed into the church office. Based on last year’s giving, we now have 135 members who are eligible for voting based on last year’s pledge fulfillment, as well as those who gave enough in 2012 to be eligible (even though not all put in formal pledges) for 2013.

Marina is reconciling the 2012 census numbers. This includes correlating each donor to the possible giving accounts: restricted/non restricted, etc. We will put a “thank you” in the bulletin to say thanks to those who pledged for this year and also to indicate we are up for this year with more pledges than last year.

Personnel.

Discussed in Executive Session.

Budget and Finance.

Michele submitted a complete budget that shows the current profit and losses in the operating fund. Overall the revenue is slightly up and shows a net positive. Michele said the budget is headed in the right positive direction, but expenses are now up. Also, the Basement Renovation does start to skew the budget picture somewhat.

Facilities.

There is a tree out on the front side that is dying. It is estimated that it will take \$600.00 to take it out and \$175 to grind it up.

We have moved a fair amount of the items in the church basement out of the basement. George and Mark have been finishing up getting items out to other

locations. There is an issue with one pipe on the corner that has to be fixed as it is interfering with the telephones.

Legal and By-Laws.

Walter indicated we are still waiting on Verizon and Brian Talbot is still trying to work with the City on the taxes on the Rectory. The By-Laws Committee has begun an effort to update the Cathedral's by-laws. One question is how many members are appropriate for the Parish Council? Another factor to undertake is to try and who can be voting member of the parish. The committee is open to suggestions on how to deal with membership and pledges.

Executive Session

At 8:15PM Barbara put forth the motion for the Council to move into an Executive Session. The motion received a second and was agreed by everyone. At 8:50PM Barbara put forth the motion to end the executive session. A second was offered and the Council voted to end the executive session.

William offered the following motion:

Motion: The Council recommends that we retain Zenebech on a 30 hour per week basis with the benefit of health insurance - to work in the church office. The PC voted on the motion and it received unanimous support.

Walter discussed the money counting schedule starting Feb. 3rd. He will prepare a schedule to go through April.

Barbara submitted the motion to adjourned and a second was given.

Father George led everyone in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM

The next PC meeting was set for 21 February 2013

Approved:

President of the St. Nicholas Cathedral Parish

Priest in Charge of the Cathedral

Date