

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting Minutes, 05-18-10, Approved

PC Members Present: Rev. Fr. Michael Eaccarino, Nicholas Chagaris, Chris Palaidis, Harry Andropoulos, Karen Markopulos, Chris Angelou, Johanna Kossifidis, Nicholas Manias, Nikitas Manias, Gary Megaloudis, Nick Nicholas, Manuel Pondakos, Dean Prodromitis, Charles Samarkos, George Stamas, John Stamas, Jim Stavropoulos, Georgia Tsangaris

PC Members Not Present: Manuel Tsesmelis

Guest Present: Costa Sisois

Fr. Michael led us in the Lord's Prayer and will continue with his meditation after more Parish Council members are present, as some were running late.

Treasurer's Report – Harry Andropoulos

Harry Andropoulos needed to leave the PC meeting early, gave Treasurer's report. Presently there is \$50,000 in the account; George Stamas will give a more complete financial report.

Real Estate Report – John Stamas -Hope Street Proposal & Plato Academy Proposal

Alexander Academy Charter School – Harry Andropoulos

Real Estate Report – John Stamas spoke on the Hope Street proposal from Jacki Vallas and Plato Academy's use of St. Nicholas' property

Plato Academy is looking for a location for the 2011/12 school year.

Vallas proposal – Trying to get government funding for a learning center. Mr. Vallas said he would bring building up to code, although nothing explained in writing or amount to be spent. **No motions made**, although Nick Chagaris asked if we should pursue the dialogue with Mr. Vallas; recommended John Stamas contact Mr. Vallas and tell him it would cost approximately \$200,000 to bring Hope Street Property up to code; if still interested, needs a written proposal with specifics.

Charter School Alexander Academy Report- Harry Andropoulos gave overview; questions asked about the application to the Pinellas County School Board for a Charter School. Concerns that this could be a potential liability for St. Nicholas; don't like idea that we would cover up icons of Christ; comments for a Parochial School for St. Nicholas – a Greek Orthodox Parochial School, starting with one grade at a time. Harry Andropoulos stated that his only reason to have a Charter School would be to help St. Nicholas. Question asked as to how much money would be needed to begin a Charter School; Harry said around \$100,000. Nick Chagaris polled the PC members, to see who would be in favor of pursuing the Alexander Academy Charter School; for- 5; against – 10.

Fotini Tsaousis Fundraiser – Costa Sisois

Nick Chagaris and Georgia Tsangaris made remarks as to what we discussed previously for this fundraiser and what the family has said to Georgia since the 03-23-10 PC meeting. PC has waited for the family to give a date for Fr. Tryfon Hall. Costa told the Parish Council what he knows about this situation. Costa did not know what was presented to the PC; needs to cook and use Theofilos Hall. Costa apologized for any misunderstanding and Nick Chagaris thanked him for coming.

Request for Fr. John Dalrymple to be hired as a second priest, on a part-time basis until we hear from the Metropolis about Fr. Vasilios – Harry Andropoulos suggested that Fr. John be paid \$1,000 as an honorarium (not a salary) per month, this is not a salary. Presently Fr. John is making \$1,000/ month for four Sunday liturgies and this will be an additional \$1,000/ month for an extra day of duties per week. Manuel Pondakos asked what Fr. Vasilios' status is at this time. Fr. Michael told us that Fr. Vasilios' paperwork is all in order, according to the Metropolis and Fr. Vasilios is still waiting for his visa. **Motion made** and seconded to pay Fr. John D. an additional \$1,000/ month for one extra day per week until Fr. Vasilios arrives. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Finance Committee Report– George Stamas

John Stamas asked about the OCLM (Stewardship) portion of the Finance Report. George said that 76% of our paid members are giving \$350 or less. We could look at a proposal showing a graduated minimum; other sources of revenue can be shown. Charles reported that St. Nicholas brought in approximately \$175,000 when we were under a dues system prior to stewardship/OCLM. Discussion followed. Comments included: problem with spirituality; many families not stewards at all because their mentality is that the church has money; communication problem. Nick asked if we should have a dialogue for having a minimum for stewardship: for – 9, against -4.

Secretary's Report – Karen Markopulos

Motion made and seconded to approve 04/27/10 PC Minutes as sent out. **Motion passed** unanimously.

"Faith in Action" Ministry – Cathedral Renovation Project – Nikitas Manias

Nikitas said that he is planning to speak after church to the parishioners about the Renovation project. Working with the company who's working on the brochure for the project and it should be completed soon. **No motions made** at this time.

OCLM – Fr. Michael

Fr. Michael gave a suggestion for George Kallas to head up this committee; his profession is public relations and marketing and is very strong in his faith. Discussion followed. This is a very important position that takes a lot of time and commitment. OCLM is about making us well; turning us to God, not to money.

Fr. Michael read from the Bible for his meditation – Fr. Michael told us that we, the Parish Council members, are the change agents for our community. People don't realize the damage being done to their souls. Charles Samarkos asked Fr. Michael what plan are we to follow. Fr. Michael responded that we need to follow the Bible; our calling is to listen to Jesus Christ and get that message to the people. Fr. Michael is asking us to put on Christ; we have to give our community back to Jesus Christ. Nicholas Manias said that this is all about trust and that we as PC members need to trust Fr. Michael; communication is needed so that we know what Fr. Michael's vision is for the community. Dean Prodromitis spoke on orthodoxy, our salvation and our spirituality. Fr. Michael says that when Adult Bible Study starts again, all PC members need to be there with their spouses. Nicholas Manias remarked that we need to all become more holy.

Outreach and Evangelism Ministry – Nicholas Manias

No report although Theodora sent Nicholas a text that we will wait to meet with greeters in the fall. Dean said that he made 1000 cards that he offered to print and will bring them to the church office.

Organizational Development – Manuel Pondakos

Final Position Descriptions for PC Pres., PC Vice -Pres., PC Sec., and Ministry Leaders. Manuel made additions; PC Sec. – computer skills; PC Vice President - on Scholarship Committee. Most important to get a Ministry informational training scheduled before Sept. 2010. Will need our present Ministry Leaders to buy into what is written in the description.

Motion made and seconded for approval to adopt the position descriptions prepared by the committee with the two additions as stated by Manuel. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Rep. to Para Church Organizations – Karen Markopulos

Only one change in the report as written; Georgia will send out letters, to be approved by Nick Chagaris and then invite Para Church Organization presidents to a meeting where they will be given a copy of the new contract and review at the meeting.

President's Report – Nick Chagaris

- Thanked PC members for coming to the Parish Assembly
- Asked Charles to follow up on Mr. Daskal's will
- Follow up for participants to Clergy Laity Convention in July
- Hall rental – promised Georgia that he will help come up with a procedure for issues that have come up; made a survey for PC members to fill out and return to him tonight

Old Business

Fotini Tsaousis Fundraiser – Georgia Tsangaris

Discussion before motion was presented. **Motion made** and seconded to give Fr. Tryfon hall for free for the Fotini Tsaousis fundraiser and for the people involved to clean the hall with liability insurance to be provided by Bayside Catering. **Motion passed** unanimously. If Theofilos Hall was needed for this fundraiser, then the full steward rental price of \$1200 needed.

St. Nicholas Technology Overview – Dean Prodromitis

Dean passed out a report on our current computer system and scenario if the system fails; proposed a solution with a total for project of \$1,100. Dean feels that something needs to be done soon to make sure that our information is safe and the church is functioning; if we are interested in pursuing this option, he would get hard quotes from Light Wave and Tech Soup; the system proposed is a true server that can sustain our needs for many years to come. **Motion made** and seconded to approve proposal submitted by Dean Prodromitis. Discussion followed. **Motion passed** unanimously.

New Business

Orthodox Christian Network "Share the Light Sunday" – Nicholas Manias reviewed his recommendation and told us what St. Nicholas has done in the past. **Decision was made** to pass a tray during this next month and send proceeds to OCN.

St. Nicholas Website – Manuel Pondakos

Wanted us to be aware that PC needs to have oversight and Charles said that he will be addressing this issue.

Fundraising Committee- Panagia's Church Service and Luncheon – Gary Megaloudis reported that Chris Cristu has volunteered to make "breakfast pizza". Questions about having a panagiri for Panagia's after Divine Liturgy; Gary felt that he wouldn't have the manpower to do a panagiri.

Fr. Michael gave the Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Markopulos

***No tapes available as there was a problem with tapes used during this PC meeting.

***Minutes were approved as read at the PC Meeting on 06/15/10.