

10/24/21 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting. -- in person

Attending: Fr. John, Deacon Igor, Jan Bear, Bobby Borisov, Janet Frazier, Charles, Iragui, Tim Moore, and Jennifer McDonald. Via phone: Amy Lines. Absent: Fr. David. (MSA- moved, seconded, approved)

1. Meeting opened with prayer.
2. Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Rector's report- Fr. John plans to give a bigger report next week. Diocesan assembly went well. The question of new bylaws was discussed w/ grammatical corrections only and were approved. These were to make them fit template established by OCA several years ago. Each parish can customize these, highlight any changes and then send to the bishop for his blessing. Deadline is 3/22. We anticipate having a vote by parish at annual meeting. We have not yet received the new template from the diocese.
4. Treasurer's report- Finances. Checking- \$9795 (operations money). Savings \$7005. Money market \$61,077 (operations, plus \$20k for 2022, 2023 budget). St. Martin's Fund \$121,468. Past month- income \$15,780, expense \$16,773 (\$993.26 deficit). Year-to-date- income vs expense +\$4,391, though we are officially behind compared to the budget. Funds- Building- \$14,882. Icons- \$3,289. Some expenses past month: Diocesan assessment- \$1,978. (yearly \$18,450.) Grounds-keeping \$625.
 - Lori has received information from Wells Fargo that they will start requiring a minimum of \$10,000 in the checking account or else there will be a monthly fee of \$20. Charles recommends transferring \$10,000 from the money market fund into the checking account, which will remove that fee- since that money in money market does not make any interest. MSA.
5. Strategic plan review ahead of next week's parish meeting- Jan presented her report on the meeting held by council several weeks ago. She has included results from the parish survey and the discussion by council. She will give the presentation for the parish next week. We discussed some mechanics of having sign-up sheets.
6. Bishop's visit is scheduled for Sunday, December, 5 to celebrate St. Nicholas Day. (This will be the celebration- no services on Monday.) We do not yet know if he will be here Saturday evening or just Sunday. Janet discussed planning a luncheon for Sunday.
7. Grounds maintenance- Kim Knudeson wants to rent a stump grinder to remove at least 13 stumps. Stilian recommends that we fix a damaged section of fence on the NE corner of the property. This was fence that we did not replace when we put in the rest of the fence, because it was not visible at the time d/t plants. Kathy Baghdanov thinks it would cost about \$300 to put in chain link fence. Charles wonders about a more aesthetically pleasing version- w/ interwoven 'green' fibers. Charles mentions that the wooden fence along the south border of the upper parking lot is also deteriorating. MSA to approve these expenses. // //. Roof of church- cleaning and repair. 4 companies did bid- w/ quite different levels of inspection- and cost ranges from \$2250-\$6917. The \$4750 bid would include repair of 20 tiles and repairing 10 feet of a damaged valley in SW corner. It would be an additional \$2000 to remove, clean, repair/power coat the crosses. Kathy is investigating consideration of replacing them. MSA to accept the bid from NW Roof Maintenance- \$4750.
8. Old business- Safety railing- Kim was concerned about making an attractive nuisance. We discussed getting quotes. We discussed that this functions at least partially as a retaining wall.
 - Hall cleaning job went to Robin @ \$260/mo. Janet bought cleaning supplies including a new vacuum and mops, w/ supply costs of \$477.
 - Church records in the cloud have not yet been acted on.

- Ordering liturgy books. Fr. John ordered 10 copies of a book that includes DL, vespers, matins, and St. Basil's liturgy. Those are expensive enough that we would want to be sure they stayed here or else are purchased by individuals. We also can get more of the paper liturgy books we have now. We discussed the revision of the narthex, including putting up shelving on the wall instead of on tables.

- Furniture in entry of hall. Amy recommends removing the white couch. Janet worries that inflation will affect church income and thinks we should be careful with expenses and suggests we delay purchase of new or used furniture. Janet suggests maybe getting a cover for the white couch. We again discussed the previously offered black leather couch. We asked Fr. John to look at pictures of the couch and get measurements.

- Several issues from parishioners - 1. Why aren't we separating 3 feet in church- state requirements do not include this requirement and people can obviously make the choice to stand further apart. There is hand sanitizer available at the entry. This seems like a smaller issue than masks. 2. Do we need to continue individual portions of food for covid safety as opposed to dishing up food at the serving table? Janet thinks things are working well at present. 3. Priest blessing the food before eating- this does take time to wait for the priest. Some would prefer that we wait for him, others wish the process would happen faster or happen in the church. Some people may choose not to stay if the wait is too long. If Father goes down quickly, he then has to go back immediately to the church to consume the chalice. If people were to stay in the church for the thanksgiving prayers, then the wait downstairs would be shorter. This whole process is a change from how things have been done here for many years, so there probably needs to be some education of the parish. There can also be flexibility in how it is done, such as Deacon Igor or Fr. David rotating with Fr. John to do the blessing different Sundays.

- Computer for office- Bobby reports that there will be some good sales around Thanksgiving, so he plans to wait until then to make the purchase.

9. Next week's meeting-The primary focus will be the report and signups for planning. Other reports should be brief or written.

10. Future meetings: Sunday 11/21 and Sunday 12/12, same time 12:15-2pm.

11. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Jennifer McDonald, Secretary