

2/25/21 St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting- via Zoom

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

1. Meeting was opened with prayer.
2. Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Rector's report- Fr John welcomed our new council members and prayed a blessing for their service. Services were canceled for 5 days d/t the large snow/ice storm. We lost several trees on the lower parking lot, as well as the willow tree next to the church. Walter has cleaned up these trees. Covid risk has decreased in counties of the metropolitan Portland area, so after consultation, service numbers have been increased back up to total of 20 parishioners from 15. These numbers had been decreased in November. Priest, deacon, and choir are counted separately. We discussed adding children under the name of the parent, since they stay close together. MSA to allow one child under a parent's name (or two children on one line).

4. Treasurer's report-Finances. Checking \$17,353. Savings \$24, 162, which includes funds for: Building (\$16,796), Icons (\$2,539), Kliros (\$1,131), St. Elizabeth (\$1,158), Lenten Covid-19 (\$1,390), and Archangel Gabriel Fire Relief (\$2,875). Money market \$30,179. St. Martin's Fund \$117,391. The money we gave to The Archangel Gabriel Fire Relief and to Portland Rescue Mission for blankets was sent from our regular accounts and still needs to be reimbursed to us from the St. Martin fund.

-For January- contributions were \$5,884 less than budgeted and expenses were \$1,643 less than budgeted, so overall we have a deficit of \$4,240.

Charles reports that our brokerage account (St Martin Fund and our money market fund) still have Fr. George's name as a signer. Our new representative, Giang Tran, does not know how to change that for these accounts.

5. Old Business:

a. Sub-metering / water bill update- The form has been submitted for sub-metering. The contact names are Charles and Kathy Baghdanov. There has to be an inspection first. It is still suspected that we have a leak, but Charles hasn't been able to get a firm statement from plumbers about putting in the electronic valve shutoffs to the sprinkler system. We discussed whether to run the sprinklers all summer.

b. Grounds clean-up- As above, a number of broken branches and trees have been cleaned up. Areas along the sidewalk are looking good. Charles needs still to follow up on removal of the leaning tree in the lower parking lot, assuming we have city approval, if needed.

c. Website committee update: Amy notes the website is being worked on steadily with weekly committee meetings. There is not an end date yet as to when it will be completed.

d. New water heater in the church- Fr. read a report from Kathy Baghdanov about this. The present tank is 58 gallons. She recommends replacing it w/ a 50 gallon electric tank. She did have a plumber assess the option of a tankless electric water heater. The circuit breaker cannot handle another heavy load in addition to the load for the air conditioner (since the AC was installed after the church was built.) There are a number of reasons not to use a gas tankless water heater, which are not documented here. The sacristy sink does not get hot water- due to no recirculation line there. There are several options for hot water in the sacristy, presently a kettle is used.

The gas companies recommend a seismic earthquake shut off valve- \$519 for each building. MSA to acquire these.

e. Options to upgrade audio/visual streaming of services. Fr. John spoke with the priest at Holy Trinity, who just installed a new system, but it was quite large. St. Anne church in Corvallis has a camera connected to a laptop computer, which works well. They also have mikes for the choir. Fr. plans further evaluation of this issue.

6. New Business:

a. We need to assign a person to be elder and to be treasurer. Charles agrees to be treasurer. Jan Bear agreed to serve as elder, which also means she will be on the St. Martin committee. Janet Frazier will also serve on the St. Martin committee.

b. Establish a file/organization committee to design an effective way to file and store important church information. MSA. Jan Bear and Dcn Igor have volunteered. It was suggested that Jim Thompson

and Eli Chituras might be willing to serve. Bobby Bouneff has suggested we need to continue to keep paper copies. He suggests that we move the documents that he has at his office into the safe at church. Fr. will send out an email inviting interested people to join the committee.

c. Streaming services. Presently we are streaming on FaceBook, because it is easy to do with a smart phone. To do that on YouTube requires 1000 subscribers, so that would be unworkable. People do not have to be 'on' Facebook to watch that. Jan notes we will have streaming videos embedded in the website.

d. For future annual meetings, Amy recommends that all the reports should be in one document, and that all the following be sent out in one email a week before the meeting- the reports, the agenda, and the link.

e. Cupola electric windows have not been used for probably 20 years. Some parish members have volunteered to donate money to fund the evaluation and determine what is required to fix them. Amy will investigate further.

f. It is suggested to add the Works of the People link with every Sunday sign-up link. We'll include a couple sentences about the jobs.

g. Bulletin- "Happening this Week" could be cleaned up a little, w/ bullet points. Some people would like to have the E-bulletin earlier. Fr. says it would be difficult to accomplish by Saturday morning. He could send it when he finishes it on Saturday. Jan notes that it will be put on the website, as well.

h. Lenten collection- The diocese always has a Lenten collection (except last year). MSA to collect money divided equally between the diocesan charity and Portland Rescue Mission. We will ask St. Martin fund to match funds.

i. Fr. reminded us that we need to comply with OCA's PSP's (Policies, Standards, and Procedures regarding the protection of youth at church.) Fr. John will check as to what we need to do to comply.

f. Fr. John will continue to send out the minutes to the parish.

7. Due to time constraints, the following issues were not discussed tonight, but will be put early in the agenda for the next meeting:

a. Establish a committee consisting of parish members to create a 3-year plan for the church and parish community. Craft a vision for both inward and outward community actions.

b. Parish community during Covid - What are we doing for the adults in the parish? / What are we doing for the youth in the parish?

c. Parish education - Adults / Youth

d. Charity work of the Parish - establish regular reports from St. Martin committee. Discuss other ways our parish does charity - both within and outside the parish. Does St. Martin committee want to have the responsibility for guiding these issues within the parish?

e. Need to assign parish contact person for grounds company and housekeeping services. Are there other jobs within the parish that need to have a council member contact person (building and grounds), purchasing supplies, etc.?

8. Tabled items not to be forgotten

a. Maintenance-Painting church cupolas and crosses in summer 2021. Cleaning high windows. Painting narthex.

b. Bylaws

c. Deteriorating cement under the pillars of the front porch of church. Does there need to be a retaining wall built to support these?

d. How to read Treasurer's Report - tutorial with Bob Cook.

e. Wetlands resource group- help clean up church woods, etc. (SOLVE?)

f. Panels for Royal Doors

9. Next meeting- Tuesday, March 30, 6:30 pm.

10. Meeting ended with prayer.

Signed: Jennifer McDonald, Secretary