

1/9/22 St Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting- in person

Attending: Fr John, Fr. David, Deacon Igor, Jan Bear, Bobby Borisov, Janet Frazier, Charles Iragui, Amy Lines, Tim Moore. and Jennifer McDonald. Absent: none. (MSA- moved, seconded, approved)

1. Meeting opened with prayer.
2. Minutes of the November council meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Rector's report- Scheduled services held, including Thanksgiving Akathist and Divine Liturgy. 1/2/22 Divine Liturgy cancelled due to snow.
 - Roof maintenance occurred in early December. There is an intermittent leak in the church ceiling. Kathy Baghdanov will arrange for the roof company to check into that.
 - Red Cross blood drive held in parish hall in December.
 - Having difficulty with live-streaming services. Fr. doesn't know if that is d/t his type of phone. (see below)
 - We have been asked to host a pan-Orthodox unction service on 1/25. There was a previous service several months ago at St. John church. They held a lunch afterwards, w/ 40 attendees. Janet offered to organize food, but we would not offer luncheon, rather coffee and finger foods. We discussed that given the Omicron surge perhaps it would be better to skip the food. Two people volunteered money to pay for food. MSA w/ two opposed to offering food.
4. Treasurer's report. No report available d/t earliness in the month.
5. Business: - Janet brought information about improving sound system in church and live-streaming of services. Pat/Jim Thompson's son is a corporate videographer and made 2 suggestions. For any plan we would need improved Wi-Fi signal in the church. Bobby notes he bought a cable to improve Wi-Fi in the church. The router presently is in the corner of Fr. John's office. Janet notes that someone is planning to donate money for this process. A major issue is the amount of attention needed before/during the service, which could be an issue here. Options: 1. A dedicated phone/tablet for live-streaming, purchase mike dongle and a wireless mike. 2. Is more permanent, higher quality, higher cost. This would be using a computer, but requires someone to push buttons occasionally, camcorder, tripod, microphone for choir, options for miking congregation. Bobby notes that he set up one like option 1 for his father's church in Bulgaria. The church is much larger than here and that system works fine. If we had a computer system, we would be able to stream it to YouTube, but phone system could only go over FaceBook. Bobby notes that for option 1, the mikes would be wireless and would pick up sound from the area. MSA to have a subcommittee- w/ Bobby Borisov determining the best system for us.
 - Updating the parish directory- MSA to do that again. Fr. will ask Bob Cook and Dcn Igor to work on that.
 - Suggestion to add more seating in church. During early Covid we started using chairs to locate people separately. Presently people who stand the entire service still are standing in front of a chair. It might be solved by educating people to make certain that chairs are available for those who really need them.

- Work groups. Jan suggests that a parish council member be in charge of each work group and contact people who have signed up, so that they can meet. Janet suggests that the annual meeting would be a time to build excitement about the process. Jan will send list of sign-ups for each to council.
- Safety railing outside lower door to hall- no progress. Charles rec. painting the wall safety yellow. Janet suggested more saw-horses. Fr. John will talk to Stylian about permanent options.
- Hall carpet replacement. Janet and Amy will investigate.
- Bylaws- reminder that these have to be modified/personalized by the parish to be approved at annual meeting on 2/27. Fr. John, Amy, Jennifer, Charles, and Dn. Igor will set up a zoom meeting to do that. Fr. John has a new version he will send out. Fr. David will also join the meeting- Tuesday, 1/18, 7pm.
- Council members- 2 terms ending: Janet finishing 2 year term. Charles finishing 3 year term. Tim finishing 1 year term as alternate. Jennifer leaving with one year left on term. Janet is willing to start a new 3-year term. Tim is willing to serve a 3-year term. Needed: 2 people for 1 year each- one to complete a term and one to serve as alternate. It is noted that the positions of treasurer and secretary will need to be filled. At present we have a book-keeper (Lori), Bob Cook who helps her, and the treasurer on the council (Charles, whose term is ending.) Jan indicated willingness to serve as secretary. Janet indicated willingness to serve as vice president (formerly called elder). This leaves treasurer position to be filled. Fr. John will contact the names suggested in the meeting to fill council positions.
- Deadline announcing the annual meeting- 3 weeks in advance. Deadline for reports for annual meeting- 10 days before the meeting (2/17), so paper/email copies will be available on 2/20. For annual meeting- Jennifer (secretary) will not be present. Budget committee will be meeting 1/20.
- Charity collections. Nativity blanket collections- no report yet. Amy asks us to consider Lenten collection ideas, in order to plan ahead. We are directed to donate to the choice made by the diocese- we will do that. We will think about and choose a local charity. We can invite the parish to suggest ideas. It was suggested that these charities be limited to human charities. We will ask St. Martin committee to match funds. (Fr. John to make these contacts.)
- Parish lawyer- Fr. still needs to contact other parishes about this. Charles still needs to look into the Service of Process person- (which could be the parish lawyer).
- All-American Council will be this summer in Baltimore in mid-July. (This will be in place of the Diocesan Assembly). Since we have 3 assigned clergy (though Dcn Igor thinks deacons are considered lay for this meeting), we can send 2 or 3 lay representatives.
- Issue of addressing crosses on top of the church has not been finalized. Removing them to clean/repair them would apparently require a crane. Cracks on concrete under pillars by front door of church. Nothing has happened on that issue.
- St. Martin request forms- We had discussed having request forms for people asking the committee for money, but no one knows who would be in charge of that. The committee has not met recently.
- Envelopes for the year have arrived- the minimum order was 50, though only 10 people asked for them.

- Tim has volunteered to review and update the notebook on fire safety and first-aid supplies. Fr. notes that fire Marshall will be coming in for an inspection. Fire extinguishers need to be updated and light bulbs in the exit signs need to be intact.
- 6. Next meeting- Sunday, 2/6, 12:15 pm. Annual meeting Feb 27.
- 7. Meeting closed with prayer.

Jennifer McDonald, Secretary