

Saint Mark Orthodox Church
Semi-Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 19, 2019

OFFICERS: Father Gregory Safchuk, President Wayne Tatusko, Vice President Karen Phinney, Treasurer Matthew Nimmer, Secretary Debbi Dillon

COUNCIL MEMBERS: John Bilyeu, Nikolay Korokhov, Paulina Masick, Sharon Carter, and Greg Yakubik

I. OPENING PRAYER:

Father Gregory led the opening prayer at 11:57AM

II. Review and approval of the minutes of the November 2018 Annual Meeting:

Motion to approve the November 18, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes was made by Tammy Jacobsen. Seconded by Tina Parish. Motion carried.

III. RECTOR'S REPORT: Father Gregory: nothing to add to his read-ahead packet

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wayne Tatusko: his report is in the read ahead handout.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT: Matthew Nimmer:

A. He highlighted several areas of interested:

- 2018 - total income was \$31,000 over the expected budget.
- 2018 Bazaar income: Net income was \$37,000 which is an increase from 2017.
- 2018 Rummage sale – a little over \$4000

- Other items included: Cash flow, collection for iconography, and balance sheet.
- Questions for 2018 financial – no questions.
- Tammy Jacobsen moved to accept the 2018 Treasurer’s report. Tina Burpee seconded. Motion carried.

B. Matthew also went over the 2019 Financial Report for Year to Date and Sanctuary Iconography donations:

- \$243,000 funds have been raised for iconography. Expenses were approx. \$229,000. Funds remaining as of March 2019: \$26,000. \$10,000 of that will go towards the work currently being done for wall preparations.
- YTD 2019 Paypal donations have risen substantially.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Iconography – Paulina Masick:

- Drywall is going up and preparations on the walls are ongoing. Originally Dmitri thought that simplicity around the stained glass would be appropriate. However, what he sent was very busy. This included other scenes from Christ’s life which conflict with our original ideas. We’re still working with the iconographer to finalize the design. Ornamentation will stay the same.
- The committee will be coming to the parish to raise funds for the final plan.
- Larissa Looby asked where the Creation icon would be. Paulina explained that when we come in the front doors in the vestibule, it will be there.

B. 50th Anniversary – Jerry Marti:

- The committee tries to meet quarterly. Anna Nashkin is the liaison to the council. The committee needs to appoint a co-chair.
- Victor Lutes plans to create a photo album.
- Marcella Hydock has some pamphlets that deal with the beginnings of the parish and we hope to make those available.
- We plan to interview founding members of the parish.
- Communicated with Met. Tikhon to confirm a date. We are looking at the latter half of September 2022 for the banquet.

- Met KALLISTOS (Ware) has been asked to be our patron. In preparation for that request, we have prepared a video of the choir singing “Christ is Risen” along with Father Gregory giving a Paschal greeting to Met. KALLISTOS. He graciously agreed to be our patron and looks forward to traveling back to St. Mark
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VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Pews – Gene Jacobsen was unable to attend. Wayne Tatusko presented on his behalf.

- Current pews are over 60 years old. One member gave a donation of \$30,000 specifically for pews. We must give it back if we do not use it for its specified purpose. We also received a bequest from Karen Nichols of approximately \$67,000 which wasn’t specified. Wayne would like to handle the pews the same way we have handled the iconography. Wayne shared the sketch made by Gene Jacobsen with current and proposed pew set-up. It will mean one fewer pew per side and more space next to the walls.
- We would like to replace the existing pews with more comfortable pews which allows more room on the sides and between the pews. This project would include re-carpeting under the pews and possibly up to the altar steps, or all the way up to the altar.
- Prices vary from \$35,000 to \$60,000 which does not include carpeting. It all depends on what type of pew we install.
- Wayne is seeking a motion and discussion for a committee to be formed to spend up to \$80,000 for new pews and re-carpeting the church.
- Mark Phinney moved that a committee be formed to select new pews and carpet with the authority to spend up to \$80,000 (including the \$30,000 donation). Joan Mitchum seconded.
- Discussion: Dcn. Matthew commented that we should try to keep the “mosh” pit for the kids up front and room for altar servers.
- Jerry Marti asked will there be standing room at the back of the church. Wayne said it would not change at the point.
- Howard Guba asked about the present seating capacity. Wayne: We have seating for approx. 160. We will lose a little seating capacity. Gene Jacobsen has those numbers.
- Tina Burpee said that her mother’s parish has kneelers and it will double the space between the pews. Wayne said the potential replacement pews would include kneelers.
- Jurretta Heckscher asked if we are past point of looking at chairs, similar to what St. Nicholas has. Father Gregory: Traditionally, we don’t have pews but in North America this as evolved. He reminded

us of the survey done by Paul Dean in 2011/2012 found that 52% were in favor of pews, 48% in favor of pews or seats. If that has changed we need to remember that the \$30,000 donation is specifically for pews and not chairs. Another parishioner had suggested to Father that having both some chairs and mostly pews. Wayne has observed that at other parishes with chair the chairs are never moved. They function like pews.

- What is the consideration for the old pews? Wayne: there is the possibility of selling them, which we will investigate. Wayne would welcome any suggestions or leads for selling the old pews.
- Jan Truitt suggested we have orthopedic seating or padding for some of the pews. Wayne said that is an important thought for the committee once it is formed.
- Jerry moved to Call the Question: motion carried.
- Motion to form a committee with authority to spend up to \$80,000 for new pews and carpeting was carried unanimously.

B. EMERGENCY PLAN - Wayne Tatusko:

- The previous council started work on coming up with an emergency plan that would cover several scenarios. The most worrying is a potential active shooter. The council would like feedback on this issue.
- Regina Kundell said that at Pascha there was a young man who came up to choir loft. He did not engage anyone, and she was in panic about it because she didn't know this person.
- David Rodak asked what is the MD law. David Jefferson answered that it is hard to get a concealed carry permit.
- Anna Meyendorff asked if we are considering hiring armed guards? Wayne: that is one of the many possibilities to consider. Do we hire a police officer to sit in the car in the parking lot? Hire police to be in the building? We have been told that police are of limited use because most police have never fired a weapon. Another possibility is someone who is ex-military who has experience with firing a weapon. These are all the considerations we want to investigate. Anna stated she would be very reluctant to allow someone with guns into the church.
- Joan Mitchum commented that even when people are prepared, we may still not be ready.

- Dcn. Matthew reminded us that this is a church. Do we really want to bring weapons into church? We don't need them in our church.
- Barbara Friemann has been worried about this happening ever since it has become a problem in the news. She has been asking Warren Miller about this issue. We are on a main road with easy access. Maybe we could have weapons hidden. But she agrees that we don't want weapons in the church.
- Kyra Smerkanich has been involved in an active shooter training at DC Superior Court. Maybe we could have a similar exercise.
- Wayne: Warren Miller investigated training for members of the parish.
- Tina Parish asked about using tasers instead of guns? Who will own the gun? Who will store it? If it's one individual, what if they go on vacation?
- Father Gregory said this is an example of how this issue is confusing. The council has spent a lot of time at each of the council meetings discussing this issue. It has also had a diversity of opinions just as we have here today. Father asked other parishes about their own plans. Fr. Zarynow, at Holy Resurrection Church, has shared his parish's Emergency Plan. It is a very comprehensive plan. It deals with issues such as evacuations, severe weather, etc. It seems to help to avoid panic by having training and a plan in the event of an emergency. This goes a long way to help to make things safer. Father would like the council to continue working on a comprehensive plan for our particular situation.
- Wayne finished up by reminding everyone that we weren't asking for a vote, but we wanted to get a sense of how the parish felt about this issue. We wanted to hear any suggestions or concerns. We welcome anyone to come to a council meeting or email any officer with your thoughts.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING – Wayne Tatusko: There has been a series of unfortunate illnesses. This includes two choir directors and numerous choir members. Some people have wondered if this a coincidence. Some people approached the council. Wayne has a friend who specializes in Environmental Law. We have a proposal for just under \$4000 to go forward with the testing. It is extremely unlikely that it will

come up with anything, but we wanted to let the parish know that testing will begin in the next month or two. We hope to bring the results to the parish at the annual meeting.

D. NEW COUNCIL MEMBER- Sarah Borger resigned from the council due to her move to Idaho. John Bilyeu nominated Kyra Smirkanich to complete Sarah Borger's term. Mark Phinney seconded. There were no other nominations from the floor. Howard Guba moved to accept the nomination of Kyra Smerkanich. Nomination approved.

E. REPAIRING OF DECK – Greg Yakubik: The rectory deck is in bad shape and needs to be replaced. He's looking at repairing and enlarging it. For enlarging we will need to get a plot plan to make sure we're not too close to the property line. Greg moved to repair and enlarge the rectory deck not to exceed \$25,000. Mark Phinney seconded. Motion carried.

F. FREEZER – both new freezers in the back have broken and would have been expensive to replace. Tina Burpee called Electrolux and complained. They said they would replace them both for free. They will be installed this week.

G. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Joan Mitchum asked about special systems for hearing aid compatibility. Father says there's some problems with compatibility and the project stalled. We will continue to investigate a solution. Mark Phinney suggested that those with hearing aids let the people know which brand they use. There will not be one system that will meet the needs of all people.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER:

- Mark Phinney moved to adjourn the meeting. Tammy Jacobsen seconded. Motion carried.
- Father closed the meeting with "Shine, Shine" at 12:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbi Dillon
Saint Mark Church Secretary