

Saint Mark Orthodox Church Annual Parish Meeting Minutes Sunday, November 17, 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, Kyra Smerkanich, and Greg Yakubik

I. OPENING PRAYER:

Father Gregory led the opening prayer at 11:30AM

II. Review and approval of the minutes of the May 2019 Semi-Annual Meeting:

Motion to approve the May 2019 Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes was made by Shirley Dean. Seconded by Barbara Freimann. Barbara had a question about whether the minutes and the read-ahead materials are filed together. Sharon said that they are filed together. Motion carried.

III. RECTOR'S REPORT: Father Gregory: nothing to add to his read-ahead packet except two highlights. The Church School program and Youth group program. We have lots of teachers and helpers. But we are lacking in participants. It can be demoralizing when teachers prepare, and no one shows. Father wanted to encourage parents to make church and church school a priority.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wayne Tatusko: his report is in the read ahead handout. Wayne invited Tina Burpee to speak. She wanted to thank everyone who participated or helped with the 2019 Bazaar. There were a few changes this year: We did not have candy, we had electronic tabs for all the parishioners. Vicki Jacobsen did a fantastic job with the Lucky Draw. The bakery was opened up and it worked very well. Cathy Tatusko's sister in Colorado has sent lovely quilted for several years in Cathy's memory. This

year she sent a lot of different home-made items. One thing of note is that almost all the workshops were attended by those over 50. Tina would like to encourage our younger members to participate. It was asked if they would consider moving more of the workshops to the weekend. Tina said that in the past it was that way and many people came and asked if it could be moved to the weekdays. Nancy Stanton, who has done a wonderful job for many years, is stepping down as coordinator of the dessert table. Sarah Borger will take over. Tina reminded us that this was our 39th year. She plans to chair the 2020 bazaar for the 40th anniversary and then step down. Regina Kundle has agreed to take over leadership of the bazaar and was helping and observing during this year. Tina asked that we all step in and help Regina because she will need a lot of help.

Wayne also invited Alex Norton to say a few words. Alex said he has now graduated from St. Tikhon's with a Master of Divinity. He wanted to thank St. Mark members for our prayers and support. He is very grateful for our support and could not have graduated without it. He is now pursuing the possibility of teaching and possibly participate in ministry within this diocese.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT: Matthew Nimmer:

A. Matthew highlighted several areas of interest:

- 2019 Bazaar income: The technology we used this year helped us reduce cash boxes and outstanding tabs at the end of the bazaar.
- Profit/loss statement & cash flow through September.
- Matthew Prentice asked about technology and whether we can we see how much members of St. Mark's consumed at the bazaar. Matthew said that is something we can do in the future.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Iconography – Paulina Masick:

- Dmitiri Shkolnik has agreed to do the Creation icon on the large wall as you walk into the vestibule as well as the ornamentation in there. He will finish the walls inside the church including marbling of the columns and a banner under the choir loft. The committee is still working on what to put around the stained-glass windows. They want something simple that won't conflict with the stained-glass. We

hope the project will be completed in 2020. He has not given the committee a firm figure yet, but we anticipate it will be at least \$100,000. The committee plans to have a Skype meeting with him in January to work out some of the final details. Tammy Karas asked if there was any idea of completion time such as before Pascha. Paulina said it is not known until after we work out final details. Jurretta Heckscher asked if we will get a preview of the Creation icon. Paulina explained that in the past Dmitri has always made a sketch for the committee to review. They have given feedback for him to consider. One thing the committee has requested is the inclusion of some North American animals in the icon.

- B. 50th Anniversary** – Jerry Marti shared “The Teaser” video that was prepared. The date is tentatively scheduled for September the week of St. John the Baptist. The committee would like to begin conducting interviews with founders of St. Mark, cradle Orthodox who came to St. Mark, and catechumens. The committee is trying to make a documentary of Fr. Basil’s life. Jerry wants to get some video of Fr. Basil celebrating liturgy. Marcella Hydock has agreed to head this portion. Marilyn Macht asked if we need some photos. Jerry said that if they in good quality he would like to use them. Tina Burpee asked if there were weekend plans as well as the banquet. Jerry said they are still working on the details. We do need to find a keynote speaker since Bishop Kallistos will not be able to travel.
- C. Pews** – Mark Phinney has taken leadership of the committee and he shared a slide with the committee’s plans. He also shared a conceptual diagram comparing the current layout against a possible layout. There are some armchairs included in the proposed layout. The reason for this is because older members will need armchairs to help them get up and down. Therefore, we have opted for a few armchairs at the end of each aisle. The pews will have padded kneelers. Otherwise, everything is open for consideration. He invited everyone to come to him and discuss this privately with him. Father reminded us that we will be spacing out the pews so people can move between the pews more easily. There will be a greater distance between the pews and the walls for processions and wheelchair accessibility. Doug Fitzgerald wanted to know what the capacity difference will be. Mark said that we will lose a bit of seating capacity. The plan is to move the pews forward by about 2 feet which means we will only lose one row of seating. There has also been a request to keep the last row on the right as chairs because several people have stated they are unable sit in pews. Wayne encouraged the parish to talk with committee members and give them feedback. Michael Lungociu asked if it be coordinated with the flooring. Wayne said yes that would be a consideration. Jurretta Heckscher thanked the committee for making

enough rooms between the pews for people to get up and down as well as being able to make half prostrations.

- D. Emergency Plan** – Wayne Tatusko reported that some of the committee has met with Drew Bumbak, who consults with churches and businesses on emergency preparedness. Mr. Bumbak is preparing his report and it should be ready soon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Election of New Council Members** - Karen Phinney moved to elect David Jefferson and Sarah Borger as new council members. Shirley Dean seconded. Motion carried.

- B. 2020 Proposed Budget** - Matthew Nimmer highlighted a few items.

a. Income:

- Increase the proposed the overall non-bazaar income by 1.8% and increase the proposed bazaar income by 11%. Both are based on the 3-year actual income.
- Decrease the rummage sale income to zero unless someone wants to head the rummage sale.

b. Expenses:

- The council proposed a decrease of the snow removal expense from \$8,000 to \$4,000 because we have not had to use it yet. The snow removal has been done for us free of charge as thanks from a parishioner at St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church. He has been doing it for years and we think he will continue for the foreseeable future. We're budgeting in case we unexpectedly have to begin paying for it ourselves.
- Stop the extra payment of \$2,200 a month towards the principal on the mortgage. It is proposed we stop this extra payment because we need to consider some large expenses we are anticipating in the future. The committee is proposing we increase the "Expected Maintenance" line item from \$20,000 to \$25,000. We also want to introduce a new category labeled "Unexpected Maintenance" with \$30,000 proposed budget. This category would be for the unexpected large one-time items. In the past we've been putting those items in the Expected Maintenance category but that isn't an accurate representation.
- Shirley Dean said that \$2,800 for flowers is not enough. She suggests we go back to \$4,000. Shirley Dean moved to amend the budget to increase the flower line item to \$4,000. Marsha Zellem seconded. Motion carried with one against.
- Wayne brought up the issue of potential maintenance issues. It's been 20 years since the major renovation. Many of our major appliances are old and will need replacing in the near future. Greg Yakubik has done a tremendous job of keeping up with repairs and maintenance. He has

been pricing out what it would cost to replace our major appliances, such as the HVAC system. The cost to replace all our HVAC units will be \$300,000-\$400,000. The HVAC is going to break; it is only a matter of when. Therefore, the council wants to redirect the money from the principal toward the expected maintenance. Paul Dean asked how many more years left on the mortgage. The mortgage is at \$600,000. The loan is coming due in 2-3yrs. It has an automatic extension which is tied to the treasury rates, and there is no balloon coming towards us. Wayne believes it is a very manageable amount and will remain so for the next 7-8 years. Tom Jenkins asked if this would be a reserve that carries over year to year. Wayne said that yes, the number in that line-item will continue to grow.

c. Shirley Dean moved to accept the budget as amended. Skip Mersereau seconded. Motion carried.

C. HANDICAP ACCESS DOORS – Paulina Masick - There has been a request that we consider a handicap access door for entering the church. We are looking to install it on the door closest to the elevator. Greg Yakubik said it would be approximately \$4,060 per door, plus material for electrical. Paulina explained that we can turn it off to reduce the number of uses and lengthen its life-expectancy. Paulina Masick moved that we install a handicap accessible door by the elevator. Shirley Dean seconded. Jerry Marti called the question. Motion to call the question carried. Motion install handicap accessible doors carried.

D. CHANGES IN THE BYLAWS- Wayne Tatusko – The bylaws limited to council to approve items up to \$4,500. Wayne proposed that we raise this amount to \$10,000 and, if it is already on a line-item in the budget, we do not need to come to the parish to ask for approval. Shirley Dean moved that we accept the text as written. Jurretta Heckscher seconded. Motion carried.

E. ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL – Father reminded us that this archdiocese is going to be hosting the AAC 2021. There is a lot of work to be done in preparation for this event. The whole archdiocese will need to be involved. He encouraged all of us review the Power Point Presentation to see where we can volunteer.

F. AUDITORS REPORT 2017/2018 – Jack Albert and Lori Hottle presented their auditor's reports for 2017 and 2018. Jack has copies for anyone interested in follow up. Total Assets: 4.2 million dollars. In Year End 2018 we had Net Income of \$125,000. Roughly half of that was donated securities. They concluded that the financial statements were free from any material misstatement. They asked that we deal with outstanding checks that have not been cashed in over a year. Those checks can be credited back towards income. In conclusion, they want to complement our treasurer, Matthew Nimmer, for his outstanding work on the financial statements They presented this to the council. Wayne thanked Lori and Jack for the work they've done.

He also sincerely thanked Matthew. At Lori and Jack's suggestion, we hope to find ways to lighten Matthew's load in the future. Shirley Dean moved to accept the Auditor's Report. Pat Inhat seconded. Motion carried.

G. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Wayne stated that there is nothing in the line-item for the pews or iconography. We are asking that all the money be donated within this year. The cost will probably be close to \$200,000. He also wanted to encourage us to sign up for the Angel Tree Project. He thanked John Bilyeu for coordinating our charitable efforts outside of the parish.
- Father Gregory – there is a new bishop-elect of Bethesda. Bishop-elect Alexis will be assisting Met. Tikhon. He will not be living in the diocese. It is an attachment on paper. His consecration is tentatively set for January 25th and serve his first liturgy as bishop here at St. Mark on January 26th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER:

- Shirley Dean moved to adjourn the meeting. Matushka Ann Prentice seconded. Motion carried.
- Father closed the meeting with “It is Truly Meet...” at 12:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbi Dillon
Saint Mark Church Secretary