

**St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church****Dayton Ohio****Parish Council Meeting  
June 19, 2017**

Present: Fr. Ted, Brian Garber, Kerrie Wiese, Rebecca Barone, Ann McLarnan, Bruce Garber, Erin Caldwell, Aaron Lessin

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 6:05. Fr. Ted led "O Heavenly King."

The minutes of the May 15, 2017 council meeting were approved with one correction made.

**New Business****Volunteer Back Property mowing**

Erin Caldwell and Aaron Lessin came to the meeting to discuss maintaining the back acreage between the church and the creek. Aaron and Erin volunteer to mow the paths themselves using Aaron's mower. Since Les Homan retired from his volunteer work around the property the parish has not been keeping that area mowed and cleared. The cost ( \$3000 per summer) of having the landscaper continue to mow all the areas Les maintained is prohibitive. Council had also hoped that lack of easy access might discourage parish kids from wandering in the area. Erin and Aaron suggest it would be better stewardship of the property to keep the area maintained., and that having an attractive place to walk is a benefit for the parish and might discourage trespassing and dumping.

Council agreed that they should try mowing the area and see how much time and gas is involved.

**Photo Directory**

Erin Caldwell also brought a proposal to have a parish photo directory done by LifeTouch as we have done in the past, most recently in 2008. The process is free for the church and includes a password-protected online directory which they will update once we have 15 new members.

Council agreed to go ahead with the LifeTouch directory. Erin will coordinate with the company.

**Parish Feast day and Parish Picnic Planning**

Erin Caldwell also asked if, since we have a \$500 budget line for catering for special events, \$250 of that could go to the upcoming Parish Feast Day celebration on June 28 and \$250 to the Parish Picnic in August. Council agreed.

Council agreed to have the Parish Picnic/Church School Kick-off celebration after Liturgy on August 27. First day of the new church school year will be August 20, with no classes on August 27.

**Agenda Items****Financial Report and Budget Planning**

Kerrie Wiese reported that at this point in the year contributions are \$14,000 ahead of pledges, but are 31% of operating budget. She estimates that by the end of June contributions will be 40% of operating budget, while they should be about 50%. Contributions continue to be down slightly. Last year they were 49% of budget by June 30.

The balance in the separate Icon Fund account is now low enough that the bank began applying \$15 service fees. Kerrie got two of these reversed and is closing that account by the end of the month. Icon Fund money will be kept in the main checking account.

**Risk Committee Policy Manual Changes**

Brian will check with Erin Caldwell that the new photography policy has been added to the policy book.

Council agreed that when a parishioner uses the church property for a private social event we will require a \$500 deposit, refundable when facilities are returned in normal condition. We currently ask a \$250 refundable "clean-up fee." \$500 would provide enough to deal with a major mess or breakage. Council discussed a new policy for members' use of the fire pit area for private functions. It was agreed the parish will provide written training on guidelines for use and the procedures for notifying the Sugarcreek Fire Department of a bonfire. This will be signed by the adult responsible for the event. The parish will provide sand buckets.

#### Long Term Goals

##### Community Outreach

Bruce Garber reported that the parish is now on the list of potential Greene County polling places. Council discussed the idea of having a smaller Icon Festival event with food trucks and our own icons on display.

#### Short Term Items

The church school needs at least two more teachers for the fall, in 3rd grade through Middle School. Kerrie will ask Mary Kay Smith, the compliance officer, to make sure the process of getting needed teacher background checks is moving forward.

Rebecca Barone reported that with one Sunday left in the outdoor play area campaign, 16 families have pledged over \$10,000. The cost of the proposed playground is \$25,000. Council agreed to provide \$5000 toward the project with funds from the Capital Improvement Fund. Council decided that the final size of playground ordered will depend on the pledges made next week.

Council continued the discussion about maintaining and developing members' commitment to the parish and to Orthodoxy. Education about theology and the Bible is important but making sure parishioners have the opportunity to develop friendships within the parish is also important.

#### New Business

Dave Cooper and Wendy Garber are doing the 2016 audit of parish finances.

The Parish Feast Day Celebration will be on June 28 with Vespers/ Liturgy at 6:00 PM followed by a festal potluck. Fr. Joseph Gingrich and a number of parishioners from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church will join us.

The meeting ended at 7:50 with Fr. Ted leading the prayer of St. Simeon.

Respectfully submitted,

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V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_