

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

Dayton, Ohio

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

September 18, 2017

Present: Fr. Ted, Brian Garber, Kerrie Wiese, Bill Turri, Ann McLarnan, Rebecca Barone, Janine Elash, Bruce Garber
Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM.

Opening Prayer: 'O Heavenly King'.

Minutes, Financial Report, Budget Planning

The August minutes were not yet ready for approval.

Kerrie Wiese presented the July 2017 financial reports. She noted that year-to-date giving was actually 50% of the operating budget, not 43% as is listed on the form. The parish continues to operate within the 2017 budget, but contributions year-to-date are nearly \$10,000 lower than at this time last year, continuing a trend set over the last few years.

The new playground equipment will be installed soon. At this point the parish has received pledged funds for all but \$150 of the actual cost. Kerrie expects the parish will ultimately receive somewhat more than the actual cost of the project; any excess can go to reducing the \$5000 the parish is contributing from the Capital Improvement fund. One more announcement about returning pledges will take place.

The expenditure for donuts at coffee hour has been running over budget. For several years donuts have been funded by parishioners signing up to pay for them each week, but there have not been enough sign-ups recently. We will make an announcement looking for more donors, then consider cutting the donuts if necessary.

We have signed a new HVAC maintenance contract with Butler Heating and Air Conditioning. This will cost \$960 per year, for two inspections, billable semiannually. This will require an increase in the proposed 2018 budget.

Council approved the proposed 2018 budget for presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Revisions to Policy Manual

Alcohol Policy

Council continued an extensive discussion of personal alcohol use and sharing of alcohol at the Pascha celebration. There have been several instances in recent years of people having too much to drink and of people who did not want to drink being pushed to do so even after they had said no. Fr. Ted reiterated that there is zero tolerance for over-use of alcohol in the church building and for pressing alcohol on those who do not wish to drink. Council decided that we will now prohibit bringing alcoholic beverages on Pascha for the purpose of distributing widely to others. Parishioners may still bring alcoholic beverages in their Pascha baskets for their own use. A strongly-worded announcement will be made on Palm Sunday after Liturgy and in the bulletin. If there continue to be problems the next step will be forbidding alcohol all together.

Use of Building and Outdoor Area

Our stated policy is that any parish member wishing to use the fellowship hall or outdoor area for non-parish events needs to make a written request to the Parish Council for approval. Council clarified that the language in the policy book will be that "Requests shall be evaluated on a case by case basis with the right to refuse any and all groups." A \$100 deposit will be charged for use of the outdoor facilities only. A \$500 deposit will be charged for use of both the indoor and outdoor facilities. This applies even if the person making the request has a key to the building. The deposits are refundable if the facilities are returned clean and undamaged. A revised application form will be put on the website.

Bruce Garber clarified that the local fire department would indeed appreciate a call when a bonfire is started and another call when it is extinguished.

New Business

Council approved the request by the Caldwell family to use both inside and outside facilities with a \$500 deposit, for a birthday party October 22 from 5-7 pm.

A new furnace and air conditioning unit were installed to replace ones that were no longer working properly. Butler HAC has also found other things needing repair which will cost \$1750.

Bruce Garber reported that the fire extinguishers are past due for maintenance. Council agreed to spend \$210 to recharge them and then to arrange annual maintenance.

David Short and Maria Brauch are overseeing the parish project to put together 54 IOCC clean-up buckets for hurricane relief. There has been a tremendous response with donations covering the supplies and shipping. We are combining our buckets with those from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and shipping jointly.

Heather Fencik is working on a church school project called Socktober. This will heavily involve the church school students in collecting donations of new socks for the needy.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be November 12. Council members whose terms are expiring are: Bill Turri and Kerrie Wiese, both eligible for one more 2-year term; Brian Garber and Ann McLarnan, both eligible for two more 2-year terms. These new term limits are the result of the new parish bylaws adopted at the 2016 annual meeting. Brian requests that anyone who does not want to stand for reelection should let him know as soon as possible.

Closing Prayer: 'St. Simeon's Prayer"

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____