

St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

Dayton Ohio

Parish Council Meeting

April 18, 2018

Present: Fr.Ted, Brian Garber, Kerrie Wiese, Rebecca Barone, Janine Elash, David Short, Bruce Garber, Ann McLarnan, Maria Brausch, Laura Short

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. Fr. Ted led "Christ is Risen."

The minutes for the February and March meetings were approved.
The current financial report is not yet available.

Pascha Alcohol Policy

Maria Brausch attended the meeting to speak to the council about the recent changes to the Pascha alcohol policy (which asked parishioners to limit the alcoholic beverages they bring to the Paschal celebration to quantities for personal or family use only.) She stated that she agrees with the new policy but feels strongly that council should not have announced the changes in the bulletin. In her view such an announcement should only be made in person during the announcements at the end of the Liturgy or on the bulletin board.

Her concern is that the bulletin is too public since it is sent out via email and is posted on the internet. Non-parish members might get the wrong impression about the severity of the problem, and some parish members might feel unfairly singled out in a public way.

Council reiterated that we regret that we did not do a good job of speaking ahead of time to those most likely to be offended by the policy change. Nevertheless we stand by the new policy and needed to make sure everyone was aware of it. The weekly bulletin and parish email list are the only effective ways to reach the whole parish quickly. The council and Maria discussed a number of ways we might improve communication, including making better use of the members-only email list and the bulletin board.

Vacation Church School

Plans are moving forward for the program which will run Monday June 25 through Friday, June 29 for ages 5-11.

Fellowship Hall Space

Rebecca Barone has been in touch with Steve Brown and they will meet to walk through the space. A number of space use ideas were discussed, such as knocking out the kitchen wall and moving the counter back toward the sink, with food served to the buffet line from the counter; heating and cooling the upstairs storage room and using it for the Youth Group room; creating a storage plan for the kitchen storage room and the mop room; using rectangular tables rather than round ones.

David Short will do a computer mock-up of the floor plan so we can try out some possibilities.

Possible Online Contribution and Pledging Methods

Brian Garber has been researching the possibility of using an online contribution and pledging

system, hoping to provide a better way to run a pledge campaign and do monthly reports. He looked at Vanco Give+. There are substantial costs associated with using some type of online contribution method, and he does not yet know if the system would generate end-of-year reports. Kerrie Wiese does not think any system would end the need for counters every Sunday. David Short suggests including PayPal. Brian will continue looking at this.

Maintenance Issues

The playground mulch is currently being installed. The question of treating the lawn for dandelions was raised. Bruce Garber will get a second quote for replacing the classroom light fixtures.

Risk Committee

David Short presented several sections of the new firearms policy that the Risk Committee is finishing.

Council voted on 2-3-18 to continue the policy prohibiting concealed firearms in the church building. At today's meeting council voted to prohibit all lethal weapons in the church building whether concealed or openly carried.

Council further voted to allow such weapons on church grounds only if they are kept locked in a car in the parking lot. Special permission of the Rector could be granted to have a weapon on the church grounds for a limited time for a special purpose such as emergency animal control. The policy would not apply to on-duty police officers.

Council further voted to communicate the final policy verbally, on the bulletin board, and in the Policies and Procedures Manual, but not to publish it on the internet. Council voted against displaying a sign at the door.

Council approved the plan to develop a security team who will have one member walking around the building and grounds during the Liturgy every Sunday on a rotating basis. They will be responsible for holding drills for various situations and for ensuring that the greeters are trained to recognize possible threats. The team members will have a background check and will have to sign a waiver agreeing to the policies.

Council voted unanimously to approve the risk committee's proposed policy with the mandated changes. The committee will incorporate the changes and return a document for a final vote at a later meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15.

The meeting ended at 7:40 PM with Fr. Ted leading "Christ is Risen."

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____