

St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council

Meeting: January 11, 2022

Meeting called to order 6:01 pm

1. **Opening prayer was given by Father John**

Council members attending:

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac – vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Linda Bisbee – corresponding secretary

Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

Guests:

Jeff Zdrale

Jeff would like the adult practice choir on January 23 placed in the bulletin.

Jeff is offering to donate the cross on the top of the icon screen. He has looked at several different types of crosses. He was asked to send a link to the different types of crosses for council to view.

Jeff is asking that there be a form to complete at the candle desk for people who want their information to be communicated to the directory and for updates.

Minutes from December meeting were reviewed. Moved to accept made by Tom and seconded by Linda. All approved.

Reports/updates:

1. **Priest's report – Father John:**

Father received a call that a parishioner tested positive for COVID. Father sent an e-mail to the parishioners last evening informing them. Tomorrow's service will be available by internet. There will be in-person services this coming weekend. Parishioners can attend and wear masks if they feel more comfortable.

Father had a meeting with the deanery priests this morning and it appears things are similar in other churches regarding restrictions. Father may reach out to other parishes in our district to share services during Lent and possibly Iron Mountain Antiochian church.

Father commented on the document that he sent to the counsel regarding tithing and giving. Discussion continued with ideas to mention in the monthly parish letter.

2. **President's report – Paul Novak:**

In the email update coming this Saturday, Paul will explain the '13th month' donation.

The final check was sent to Dimitri for Iconography phase 2 which is now paid in full.

All current council members have agreed to return for another term.

Paul has divided future items into two buckets: building improvement and beautification projects (see attached list). He will discuss these items at the annual meeting. He encourages counsel to review the list.

3. Vice President's report – Matt Tomac:

There is some discoloration on the ceiling of the Narthex. Matt will purchase the tiles and can lights will be replaced.

Matt is looking at a second bid for electrical work on Herrick Hall.

Matt completed the new cleaning schedule. This will be updated on the website.

4. Treasurer's report – Tom Julian:

We had a large month of giving (see attached report).

We have paid extra (\$317.00) on the mortgage every month this past year, with potentially retiring the mortgage in about 10 years.

We exceeded budget in 2021 by \$30,000+.

Tom requested that Noah Becker be his assistant to help in building reports, spreadsheets, etc. Noah has agreed to help Tom.

5. Corresponding secretary – Linda Bisbee: none

New Business:

Paul proposed to have the budget ready in one month for review. We can also discuss presentation to the parishioners.

Will Morgan has requested a ping-pong table for the upstairs youth room. A motion was made to request a donation for a ping-pong table by Tom, seconded by Matt. Agreed by all.

Old Business:

Paul sent a picture of Nathaniel's picnic tables. Nathaniel will start with building two tables.

Paul talked to Deacon Spyridon about the church siding. Will likely do siding in two phases due to cost. This project is still in the information gathering stage.

Tom will discuss legacy fund at the annual meeting.

Mark Massopust asked if the council would be interested in a speaker for Lent. Father states that he has been thinking of this idea and has some thoughts.

The next meeting will be February 08, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.