

St Michael's Parish Council Meeting

November 27, 2018

Present: David Lebo, Chris Sam, Jeff Curry, Gus Flizanes, Fred Charles, Don Yoder, Veronica Fennell,
Melanie Bell, Fotini Wetzel, Val Flizanes, Ed Sam, and Petros Papas

Excused: Carol Patton, Jillian Crowe, Julia Ritter, Sara Armanious

Clergy: The Very Reverend John Nosal

I. Opening Prayers and Father John's remarks to the parish council:

Father John spoke about possibly rearranging the agenda of the parish council meetings and requested that people giving reports be succinct. He also said it may not be necessary to have team leaders report at every meeting unless there is something significant of which the parish council should be aware.

II. Chairman's Remarks: David Lebo reiterated Father's remarks and asked respectfully that people limit reports and comments to between three to five minutes acknowledging that any difference of opinions would necessarily extend that time.

III. Minutes and Agenda:

Chris Sam made motion to accept the minutes with corrections, Fotini Wetzel 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

IV. Financial Report:

Chris Sam presented the Statement of Income and Expense (January, 2018-October, 2018) and the Statement of Financial Position as October 31, 2018. As of October 31, 2018 St. Michael's deficit is \$46,063.32 and there is \$46,280.40 in the general fund checking account. The significant non-recurring expense in October was the purchase of TV stand using the St. Vincent Grant funds. The amount of the purchase was \$120.84. Jeff Curry also presented the St. Michael's Treasury Bill Investment report. Currently three T-Bills have been purchased using the guidelines adopted in the PC motion passed at the August, 2018 PC meeting. Jeff C. also reported that a health insurance plan for Father John's family had been obtained through another provider with a savings of \$800./month for St. Michael's.

Gus Flizanes made a motion to accept the financial report, Melanie Bell 2nd, all in favor, motion passed

V. Vital for Tonight:

A. Social Media Photos and Video:

The PC had a conference call with Deacon Finn Roberts from the Archdiocesan Department of Missions and Evangelism. He addressed concerns about images of minor children being shown online and he answered questions and made suggestions about how to photograph and live stream videos to address those concerns. He noted that AV posts pictures of minors and does not have privacy or intruder problems. There is a media release form for parents to sign to give permission for use of the pictures. He stated that online pornography is the greatest concern for children's internet safety. He suggested that if a parish is going to live stream the Liturgy, it should be communicated by every means possible so those attending are aware. He said that the internet should be "flooded" with the Orthodox Liturgy and teaching to offset the evil on the internet.

B. Mediterranean Buffet:

Petros Papas presented a list of improvements/changes being discussed for next year's buffet. He asked that The PC read the list and communicate any questions or suggestions to him. Petro also submitted the Income statement summary which showed a net income of \$15,082.00 in 2018 as compared to 2017 which had a net income of \$12,756.00. The increase of \$2,326.00 was mainly from the billboard project which generated net income of \$2,140.00

C. Stewardship

Petro Papas said that he would have a report for the December, 2018 PC meeting. He said that currently (as of this meeting date) there were 66 pledges totaling \$1900.00.

VI. Current Business:

A. Action Item list: see last page

B. Facility Maintenance:

Gus Flizanes reported that work continues on the altar server room ceiling, several lamps have been replaced and several pews have been repaired. He also reported that there are water leaks in the foundation of the Parish House which will need to be repaired. Gus also reported that the snow removal cost will remain the same as last year. He also asked Fr. John to request that when Achieva begins to use the Church parking lot, that they park together and not at the ends of the lower lot to facilitate snow removal.

C. Reformat of inhouse envelopes:

Father John is continuing to work on the envelopes. There were questions concerning whether suggested donation guidelines would also be included. Father said the envelopes would be seen by PC before printing and price/donation amounts could be discussed.

D. Advent Wreath Table: Completed and in use.

E. PowerChurch Upgrade:

David Lebo recommended that the PowerChurch program be upgraded. He made the recommendation after reviewing the capabilities of the current software and thought they were inadequate for future use. The cost to upgrade is \$179.00

Val Flizanes made motion to purchase the upgrade, 2nd Jeff Curry, all in favor , motion passed

F. Nominating Committee:

The nominating committee consists of Father John and Jillian Crow. Father reported that one name has been submitted for nomination. The PC members whose terms are concluding are Fred Charles, David Lebo, Gus Flizanes , and Veronica Fennell.

G. Bishop Thomas Visit:

After reviewing the open weekend dates on Bishop Thomas's schedule, the PC asked Fr. John to request the weekend of October 11-13, 2019 for the Bishop's visit to St. Michael's.

VII. New Business:

A. Choir Director Training Program:

Father John asked PC to reimburse Mat. Marsha Smolcic for the online Choir Director Training Program she is taking from St. Vladimir's Seminary. The cost of the course is \$250.00

Fred C. made motion to reimburse Matushka Marsha the full amount, 2nd Veronica F, all in favor, motion passed

B. Christmas Divine Liturgy Times—Matins on Monday 12/24/18 @8:00 PM, Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 PM

VIII. Parish Ministry Team Reports

Veronica Fennell reported that the Parish Handbook will be ready to go to the printer on 12/10/18. PC will meet on Sunday, 12/9/18 to elect an executive council so that the names of PC officers for 2019 can be included.

After discussion about the number of copies that should be printed, the cost , and the paper to be used

Fotini W. made motion to accept the bid from Budget Master of \$315.00/175 copies with color covers Christian S. 2nd, all in favor , motion passed.

Team Reports:

FOH: Gus Flizanes reported that FOH served 13 people in November and sent 30 meals to Greater Things. At their November meeting, FOH decided to continue to serve another six months and change their serving day to the last Tuesday of the month. They are also in contact with the Latrobe Rotary Club to discuss possibly working with them. Gus F. also reported that he had asked permission from Father John to do a coupon drawing for a free ham and/or turkey which would be donated. Anyone would be eligible to win regardless of whether or not they had purchased the coupon. A discussion followed about whether or not this was gambling against which there is an Archdiocesan prohibition. Following the discussion **Chris Sam made a motion that FOH not do a drawing for turkey or ham, Val F. 2nd, 5 yes, 2 no, motion passed.**

Security: Don Yoder will be contacting the people who expressed an interest in participating on the security team. Father John will contact the Archdiocese to inquire about any security guidelines they might have.

Amen: Ed Sam reported that the Amen would be sending out December birthday cards and that they are working with the Outreach Team on several projects. Ed also reminded people to use the Parish website to obtain information.

Outreach: Fred Charles reported that the Parish's current tax exempt certificate should be arriving in the first week of December, 2018. Fred C. also asked permission from the PC for Fr. John to do twelve, one minute ads per month on Ed Sam's radio show called "Amen Arabic Hour" which airs Sundays from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There would be no cost to the Parish and Father John would be speaking about St. Michael's in particular and the Orthodox Church in general.

Jeff C. made a motion to approve Fr. John doing the radio ads, Gus F. 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Fred Charles also reported that the Outreach team in conjunction with the Amen are planning a visit to Greensburg Care Center to go caroling and to give gifts to each resident. He said that all are welcome to participate and they would be eating at a local restaurant after the outing. The outing is scheduled for Sunday, December 12, 2018 after the Divine Liturgy.

AW: Valerie Flizanes thanked the PC for their help at Father John's anniversary lunch. She submitted an Income/expense report for 9/30/18 11/25/18. She reported that currently the AW have a balance of \$11,989.50 in their account. Additionally Valerie said that a new monitor may be needed for the outdoor freezer because it failed to sound an alarm when it should have. She also said that at their 12/18 meeting the AW would be discussing reimbursing the parish \$3400.00 for the electrical work done in the kitchen. She also asked that PC consider writing new guidelines for the rental of the fellowship hall and multi-purpose room to include additional fees for use of the kitchen particularly the appliances.

IX. Announcements:

The Syrian Club has rented the fellowship hall for December 31, 2018

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 @ 7 PM, executive council @ 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Bell

Action Item List

PC promise made 7/24/18:

Father John will continue with parish membership forms follow up calls

PC promise made 8/21/18:

Julia Ritter will work on redesigning donation envelopes (discussion about suggested donation guidelines being included on the envelopes.)

