

Dormition of the Theotokos. O.C.A. Regular Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the Nave of Dormition of the Theotokos, O.C.A.

736 Sheppard Ave., Norfolk, VA 23518

February 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Father John Cox at 4:30 PM following the opening prayer, "O Heavenly King".

Present: The Reverend Father John Cox, Kevin Combes, Diane Blischak, Jack Damon, and Erin Gray.

Absent: Karl Rusnak

A. Review/Approval Previous Meeting Minutes

A review of the minutes of the Regular Parish Council Meeting held January 18, 2020 was conducted. A motion to approve the Regular Parish Council Meeting minutes of January 18, 2020 as amended was made by Jack Damon, seconded by Erin Gray. The motion carried.

B. Selection of Parish Council Officers

A motion was made by Jack Damon to select Parish Council Officers for the 2020 Parish Council. The motion was seconded by Kevin Combes. After discussion, it was decided that Diane Blischak will serve as Warden, Kevin Combes as Secretary and Karl Rusnak will serve as Treasurer. The motion carried.

C. Father John's Comments

Father John noted a shocking lack of coffee in the church.

Father John then touched on the highlights of the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Miami. He noted that the diocese is stable, in good order, and in good spirits. Archbishop Alexander, due to the geographic size of the Diocese of the South, would like there to be two auxiliary bishops. The dioceses currently has but one. Archbishop Alexander favors Archimandrite Gerasim (Eliel) to fill the position of the second auxiliary bishop. As this position is an elected position, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, is seeking a consensus concerning the election to this position.

The Diocese of the South is covering the cost of Father John's student debt.

The diocese is growing, and so the bureaucratic infrastructure is growing along with it.

The Deanery is generally quiet right now.

Father's John Diamantis and Stephen Duesenberry have been doing fill-in work at various parishes when needed.

Father John noted that he is working with nine catechumens, four of whom are adults, and two inquirers at the present time. He is working with the catechumens on an ad hoc basis as he is not teaching a catechumen class right now.

Father John has a project as one of the editors of the online journal Rule of Faith to organize the archive.

The game night event had a good turnout.

On the afternoon of February 23, 2020, Father John is planning a movie excursion to see the movie A Hidden Life.

Father John's book study schedule is up in the air right now.

Orthodoxy On Tap continues to meet monthly.

D. Additional Business

Jack Damon continues his work on putting together an Emergency Response Plan.

The construction of the iconostasis is on schedule. Jack Damon learned from Roy Martin that Paul Chadwick has now signed the contract sent to him from the parish council for the work on the iconostasis. A fund raiser will be initiated for the Vestal Icons for the Iconostasis. Plaques will be used to commemorate the donors.

Father John has ordered a hand worked sterling silver chalice set with blue inset stones (Mary's color) from an artisan in Greece. It is being funded by a \$5000 anonymous gift.

Father John reports that purple covers have been ordered. He would like to also obtain gold coverings.

The Gospel Cover commissioned from George Bilak is now in the process of being carved. We do not know what it will cost at this point.

For our parish Lenten almsgiving project, we will be putting together hygiene supply bags for distribution by the IOCC. This is being headed up by the Stewardship Committee.

The council then turned its attention to a discussion centered on the lay General Assembly Delegate. Karl Rusnak is our current delegate, but the council is considering a second observer as a means of cultivating future delegates. The council will budget in the future for lay delegates so that the delegate does not need to pay his way to the General Assembly.

The council then discussed committee liaisons assignments. The assignments are:

Stewardship: Diane Blischak

Hospitality: Erin Gray

Building and Grounds: Kevin Combes

Beautification: Jack Damon

E. Adjournment

The meeting closed with prayer, "It Is Truly", at 5:51 PM.

The next Regular Parish Council meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2020 @ 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Combes,

Secretary