

New Church Committee

1 MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

The fifth meeting of the Saint Demetrios New Site Development committee was called to order by George Pahoulis, co-chairman, at 6:30 PM at the community center meeting room for the purpose of building a new Saint Demetrios church building on the Atlantic Street property.

Twenty persons were in attendance. They were:

Father Valantasis, Frank Manios, Steve Zervas, George Terry Bounias, George Pahoulis, Bruce Hendryx, Irene Buccino, Lee F. Manios, Lou Kondoleon, Arlene DiCesare, Mary Ann Raptis, John Vrontos, John Lerakis, Irene Culetsu, Matthew Kassos, Perry Alexandries, Stephanie Mikouis, Kitsa Aivazis, Mike Aivazis, George, Halkias, Cynthia Savakis.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

An agenda was provided. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed, read and amended. George T. Bournias asked to move to accept the minutes as amended. Matthew Kassos seconded the motion.

Subcommittee reports:

Current Site Development subcommittee:

Father Costas Valantasis presented information concerning FOCUS North America which serves those in need. Father Costas described his meeting with Nick Chakis to learn how FOCUS NA proposed to use the current St. Demetrios church as a resource center for the group and start an addiction recovery program. The group has offered to give a presentation. Father reminded the committee to consider the true vision of Orthodox Christians.

Fundraising: Mike Aivazis reported that once the list of volunteers is established (Cynthia Savakis read the current list), there will be a report of ideas and activities at the next meeting. A meeting may be expected for the upcoming week.

Public Relations: No report

Pledges Subcommittee: Frank Manios reported that there has not been a meeting since February 24th. George Pahoulis took the opportunity at this time to ask all committees to begin establishing meeting dates. Frank continued by commenting that the Pledges committee needs to know costs. Discussion proceeded with the pros and cons of requesting commitments without figures to present. Frank gave as example that there are figures already approximated for the Church and Sunday School/Youth Activity area. Brochures and presentations are being worked on. Kitsa Aivazis offered that \$3.1M of pledges has been presented in the past. The committee discussed how the architectural rendition could be used to approximate the projected costs. Bruce Hendryx commented that some kind of binding commitment should be drawn up with those promising pledges. The committee was reminded to recall the efforts of paying off the present Youth Center. Stephanie Mikouis summed the discussion that goal setting and regular sub-committee meetings need to be established.

Financial: No report.

Building Subcommittee: It was reported that a Skype meeting was set up with architect Steve Papadatos but the meeting did not work well due to technical difficulties of Skyping. The Building sub-committee was able to communicate to the architect some of the desired changes to the architectural plans such as funeral access to the church and the Mothers' Room view of the church interior. Some suggestions to the architect were to reduce the aisle width from 16 ft (or 90 people) to 8 ft. The chapel and bell tower were still open for discussion. It was presented that reducing the height of the dome by 15 ft. can significantly reduce costs.

George T. Bournias presented a schematic he put together to represent the size of the proposed basketball court in the Sunday School complex. The schematic also illustrated classroom reduction. He found that the basketball court (full court) would fit well into the courtyard plan. Mike Aivazis said the size of a high school full court was verified. Also discussed was adjusting the pitch of the roof over the complex. The architect would contact a local architect to advise on real costs. Lou Kondoleon brought up the subject of sprinkler systems and George Halkias noted that there is significant saving in insurance by having adequate sprinkler systems. Lee Manios brought up the subject of the gymnasium flooring and pointed out that locker room facilities were not planned. It was suggested that more young families should be participating in the planning and to draw the youth into contributing to more amenities that might be added. George Halkias concluded that the committee needs to see what the architect will put to paper with the revisions to approach current costs.

Other discussion included pros and costs of domes and demographics of the Warren area versus other areas that have built new churches.

Final comments: George Pahoulis reiterated that each subcommittee needs to submit reports. There was also a need to see younger church members at the meeting and to hear their concerns. The square footage need to be established or at least an approximation given and finally, to come to an agreement on the revisions of the plans.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned.