

New Church Committee

1 MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

The fourth meeting of the Saint Demetrios New Church committee was called to order by James Economos, co-chairman, at 6:45 PM at the community center meeting room for the purpose of building a new Saint Demetrios church building on the Atlantic Street property.

Twenty-two persons were in attendance. They were:

Jim Economos, George Pahoulis, Gus Aivazis, George Halkias, Matt Kassos, Mary Ann Raptis, Stephanie Mikouis, Cynthia Savakis, George J. Kotsatos, George Bounias, Steve Zervas, Kitsa and Mike Aivazis, Taki Larentzos, George Callow, Sotirios Aggelis, Bill Axiotis, Nick Liakaris, Frank Manios, Lee Manios, John Raptis, Nick Hazimihalis.

The meeting opened with a prayer

An agenda was distributed. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed, read and amended. George Halkias asked to move to accept the minutes as amended. Kitsa Aivazis seconded the motion.

Kitsa Aivazis requested that all subcommittees be referenced to by name in the minutes. Jim Economos said that this would be implemented going forward. She also requested that all subcommittees set goals for themselves to be worked towards. She read from a list of examples of goals to be pursued.

Subcommittee reports:

Current Site Development subcommittee: Frank Manios reported that the subcommittee met on Tuesday, February 24. He reported that Father Valantasis was very interested in keeping the church. Father was aware of possible federal grants that might be applied for to keep the church intact. The subcommittee thought it could be feasible to move some items from the current site to the new church. The committee was open to suggestions. It was reported that FOCUS is a group that might be accessed for funding. A meeting will be scheduled for March 10, 2015 to meet with FOCUS. George Pahoulis asked if FOCUS funding should go before the General Assembly. Frank responded that the meeting was exploratory only at this time. Gus Aivazis cautioned that regulations may apply when using federal funding.

Pledges Subcommittee: Frank Manios also attended this meeting held on Tuesday, February 24. He reported that there was not much resolved, however, the subcommittee did approve the pledge "brackets" that were developed and recorded in the original minutes and presented in the original DVD. Kitsa Aivazis requested to retract her previous statement at the February 17th meeting that there had been \$1.3M in pledges gathered. Rather, there were 40 families including the previous building committee pledging \$840,000. Jim Economos requested to know who else had volunteered for the committee. Gus Aivazis commented in general to all subcommittees present that all committee work should be reported. Frank Manios agreed that there was a need for goals and numbers but has to rely on the building committee to complete their work to help set these goals. George Halkias advised all committees that they should be ready to act on their agendas once the costs are established.

Building Subcommittee: George Halkias, chairman, read the current list of subcommittee volunteers. George reported that he again spoke with the architect. For the present, the committee would Skype with the architect to discuss a game plan for the new building. Then, it can be decided if the architect needs to visit the property. Mike Aivazis and George Bournias set up an overhead projector display of the original plans as drawn fourteen years ago to review with the members in attendance. They pointed out details and possible alterations that might be cost savings.

The courtyard was discussed for possible other uses. Lee Manios requested that the committee pay special attention to the needs of the youth now that the current community center was redecorated for banquet purposes. George Kotsatos suggested that those with young children and teens should lead with development of the areas to be used by

the youth of the community. Kitsa Aivazis pointed out that the overall master plan does have a gymnasium incorporated and the current plan was temporary. Rebuttal was given that a youth area cannot be deferred for future development and there was voiced general disappointment in the current accessibility the youth have to our facilities. Gus Aivazis requested that it be recorded in the minutes that the Building Subcommittee will strongly recommend to the architect to design a full basketball court with the classrooms surrounding it, all for youth priority.

Continuing, Gus pointed out that the site layout should be “festival friendly”.

- There should be considerations for the large cost of the blacktop. George Halkias noted that the current blacktop was in poor condition and this would be an excellent opportunity to redo it. Gus Aivazis showed on the overhead how St. Demetrios Blvd could be extended.
- A suggestion was made to contact independent contractors for more ideas.
- A suggestion for the Atlantic Street side and for the convenience of additional parking there.
- Question to the architect in relation to the proximity of the gas well to the administration building
- Nick Hazimihalis asked for reevaluation of the seating capacity needs for the new building and if there will be community growth to warrant the new space. Gus Aivazis responded that he does have examples from other communities where attendance increased with the building of a new edifice.

No other committees reported.

A review of the subcommittee chairpersons was conducted. Cynthia Savakis requested that each subcommittee hand in a list of volunteers to her for the records.

Pledges: Father Costas Valantasis, Chair

Fundraising: Mike Aivazis, Chair

Financial: George Bakeris, Chair

Public Relations: Charlie and Cindy Lambis, Chair

Final comments: Frank Manios advised that a dollar cap on the project be established with concrete proposals. George Bournias agreed, including review of funding for iconography, seating, lighting, etc. Mike Aivazis thought the previous figures included these costs.

George Pahoulis asked all those present to attend the upcoming General Assembly.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2015

The meeting was adjourned.