

New Church Committee

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

The sixth 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.

Sixteen persons were in attendance. They were:

Father Valantasis, Frank Manios, George Terry Bounias, George Pahoulis, Perry Alexandides, Paras Copenhaver, Arlene DiCesare, Mary Ann Raptis, Liz Ney, Irene Culetsu, Stephanie Mikouis, Kitsa Aivazis, Mike Aivazis, George, Halkias, Dean Nikolaides, Alexander Savakis, 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. Mary Ann Raptis seconded the motion.

Father Costas Valantasis made the suggestion to the committee to contact Michael Pontikos as a resource to help promote the site development project. Michael teaches marketing.

Subcommittee reports:

Building Subcommittee:

George Halkias reported that the subcommittee continues to work on the concerns already discussed at previous meetings. On March 30, 2015 George met with a contractor out of Pittsburgh that has many year experience building churches for Catholic communities. He was impressed with the contractor's knowledge of building issues. The contractor would contact the building subcommittee in about three weeks after he has had time to consider our concerns. A report from the building subcommittee will be forthcoming after that meeting. It was noted that committee member Perry Alexandrides also has had some experience with building committees and will help with any questions. George reported that the contractor was only given the architectural dimensional plans since mechanical plans are not available. George reported that the contractor would not charge for reviewing the plans. Although the contractor may have some additional ideas, Father Costas asked that the original architectural plans be closely followed.

Financial: No report. George Pahoulis expressed concern that the chairs for this committee have not been present at any meetings to date. George and Father Costas will plan a visit to the chairpersons. In the meantime, Huntington bank is already working on some considerations. Mike Aivazis also suggested to keep in mind 717 Credit Union. Frank Manios noted that the Pledges subcommittee still needs an estimate to take to the community. We need a figure to take to the banks to see what terms we can receive. As an aside, it was verified from comments from the previous meeting that pledges are not binding agreements that would be presented to the community. Father Costas commented that there is statistical information available that can help determine what percentage of pledges are fulfilled. Examples of pledge options were discussed.

Pledges Subcommittee:

Mary Ann Raptis and Irene Culetsu reported to the committee with examples of pledge cards from their meeting last Wednesday, March 25, 2015. The pledge cards can be used as a mailing option. They presented some other examples. The pledge subcommittee recommended a 5-year plan for fulfilling pledges as the most likely to succeed. Discussion continues as to how many 350 stewardship units would be counted on to fulfill pledges. It was suggested that 260 of these units would make up the bulk of the pledge focus. Discussion continued with suggestions for breakdown of levels

of pledges and breakdown by monthly contribution. It was recommended to increase the monthly scale from that proposed at the original public presentation to the community. Book keeping will need to be formalized for keeping track of pledge payments. Those who do not turn in a pledge card should be visited to help support the pledge drive.

Kitsa Aivazis commented that she thought the community would exceed expectations. Mike Manios asked if pledges would be confidential. Pros and cons were discussed. It was decided that some form of appreciation should be offered to those completing their pledges.

Current Site Development subcommittee:

Mary Ann Raptis asked when a decision for the current site will be made. Arlene DiCesare informed those present that the sanctuary would always be available to the St. Demetrios community. FOCUS would only be using the basement and offices. Para Copenhaver recommended that Father Costas start presenting facts to the community in pulpit addresses to help allay false information. An open discussion with FOCUS is recommended along with a copy of the contract and a description their program. A meeting for April 21, 2015 will be requested with FOCUS with Father Costas in attendance.

Fundraising:

Mike Aivazis reported that the fundraising subcommittee will keep in touch with the pledge subcommittee. Fundraising needs to know what can be sponsored and how much these things will cost e.g. Icons, classrooms, bell tower, pews. Ideas for fundraising can be picnics, dances, testimonial dinners, etc. A meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 7:00 at the community center.

Public Relations: No report

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Irene Culetsu made a motion to adjourn them meeting. It was seconded by Mary Ann Raptis. The meeting was adjourned.