

New Church Committee

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

The seventh 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.

Twelve persons were in attendance. They were:

Father Valantasis, George Pahoulis, Perry Alexandrides, Paras Copenhaver, Arlene DiCesare, Mary Ann Raptis, Irene Culetsu, Stephanie Mikouis, Mike Aivazis, Steve Zervas, Gus Aivazis, Cynthia Savakis.

Father Valentasis opened the meeting with a prayer and moment of silence for James Economos.

An agenda was provided. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed, read and approved. Gus Aivazis asked to accept the minutes as written.

George Pahoulis announced that Father Ken from St Nicholas church could not attend the meeting to discuss some of that parishes experiences with building a new church. However, Father Ken did speak earlier with George Halkias and Father Costas. There were similar issues on a smaller scale. Father Ken had many enthusiastic comments.

Father Costas also spoke with Mike Pontikos who will design a logo for the project as well as an information packet and will present this to the committee for evaluation. Father Costas wants to begin speaking with families. He repeated to the committee to plan carefully and not stray too far from the original architectural design in expectation of the worst.

Gust Aivazis suggested that the building committee speak with several contractors to view the dimensional plans besides the one already spoken to from Pittsburgh. Gus will try to contact some commercial contractors. He asked Perry Alexandrides for his help in this matter. Arlene DeCesare cautioned to ensure that no additional costs would be incurred and to always go through the Parish Council to keep them informed. Father Costas also agreed that though there is a small fund, all transactions should be with Parish Council approval. A question was posed as to which funds the Parish Council controlled. The answer was all funds. George Pahoulis noted that the Parish Council should not be blindsided and the council kept informed.

Subcommittee reports:

Fundraising Subcommittee:

Mike Aivazis reported that the Fundraising subcommittee has already held two meetings. The committee is very excited to begin as soon as the allowed. The committee has identified and discussed numerous events but wants to make sure that the events do not take away from the fundraising for the current site upkeep. Mike named such events as picnics, car runs, food events such as a "Taste of the Mediterranean", and testimonial dinners for members by nomination. Businesses have been identified for possible donations. He would like to work with the Pledge subcommittee as much as possible. Dates will be scheduled once the go ahead is received. Mike noted that more members will be needed on the fundraising subcommittee.

Building Subcommittee:

Financial Subcommittee: No report.

Public Relations Subcommittee: No report

Pledges Subcommittee: No report.

George Pahoulis reiterated that subcommittees need to attend the joint meetings. He and Father Costas will contact the subcommittee chairpersons.

Current Site Development subcommittee:

The committee recommended an open discussion with FOCUS. Father Costas explained that St. Demetrios church was consecrated ground and baptized for a specific purpose. Focus is an Orthodox organization that addresses issues in the community. Father Costas had contacted FOCUS to inquire if they would be interested in having an office between Cleveland and Pittsburg to help with land that was donated to the group. The St. Demetrios community would have access to the sanctuary. The building would not be a mission. FOCUS would absorb costs through grants and they excel with networking which would not affect keeping the church open. Father Costas reminded the committee that building a new church will be a battle for spiritual renewal and not just changing buildings. Understanding this will require education and preaching. Stephanie Mikouis agreed that there is a need for more information. Arlene DeCesare noted that FOCUS operates on a large scale by skilled professionals. Father Costas will set up a meeting for May 5, 2015

Irene Culetsu moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Ann Raptis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 6:30 pm