

St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: July 9, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Paul Novak - president

Matt Tomac - vice president (excused)

Tom Julian – treasurer

Mark Massopust - corresponding secretary (excused)

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

Minutes from June 18, 2024, parish council meeting was reviewed. Typos were corrected. A note was added by Tom Julian that financials are back on track, as of July 10th. A motion was made to approve by Paul, seconded by Tom. Approved by all.

Reports / updates /old business:

Priest's report - Father John:

- A. The liturgical schedule has been sent out for August.
- B. Bonita Zdrade passed away at home on June 22. The funeral was on June 28th.
- C. Baptisms.
On June 15th, Lucca Valverde was baptized.

There will be a reception of the Eslinger family with the baptism in Long Lake, in Waupaca on July 13th.

July 20th will be the reception of the Landergran family.

D. Fr Hibbard from Montana will be here for the next two Sundays.

E. The church school received a couple hundred dollars in donations.

F. We continue to have new people in attendance at Sunday liturgies. Last Sunday there were eight new people. Father reminded us as parish council members and other long time parishioners to greet our new friends, introduce ourselves, and make them feel welcome.

*Ideas were shared about possibly adding photos to accompany the parish directory to aid helping members get to know each other better. This is a developing idea.

President's report – Paul Novak:

Matt Tomac is on Vacation.

Mark Massopust is out sick.

Sophia Roegner's wedding is July 28th at 2pm. We need people to help clean and rest the church, to turn it over by 1pm. Photini Roegner relayed that choir practice will be 1:00 – 1:30 that day, for the service.

The Novak's will be away in Alaska for two weeks. Father will turn on the AC during the time that they are away.

At a previous PC meeting a short discussion was held concerning the removal of the fire pit. This discussion didn't make it into the minutes and am adding this discussion here. It was removed as it wasn't being used and it was hard to maintain. All were in agreement with its removal.

Treasure's report – Tom Julian:

Updated financial statements were submitted. (see attachment dated 7/8/24)

We have approximately \$54,000 in Iconography Funds. We are doing well for our mortgage, are low in the Building Fund, and have \$4,000 in outstanding bills. The original roof loan was \$28,000. The balance on the roof loan is \$16,971.

New business:

A. On August 4th, the council will present a mid-year update at coffee hour. This will be an informal meeting to update the parish. Information will include the annual picnic, the big room make over, iconography, the fall festival, and cemetery plots.

B. Paul made a motion to solicit cemetery lots at Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery in New Denmark, WI. He forwarded this motion to help the parishioners of SMOC and other Orthodox believers have a designated cemetery with other Orthodox Christians. Father John seconded the motion.

Approved by all.

(This would be a section of the cemetery designated as an Orthodox cemetery. SMOC would not own these lots, nor would it be contracted with cemetery. The plots would be purchased by individual members.)

Tom will generate a document that outlines the process and procedure of procuring plots. Tom also proposes that we have a Memorial Service twice a year at the cemetery, at the discretion of our priest.

- D. Dmitry Skplnick will secure a date by August 4th, for the October start of this phase of the Iconography installment.
- E. The big room project will be presented as a makeover, not a big project. It will provide overflow seating for coffee hour, would be done in sections, with a tentative start date of late fall this year. This way it could be ready for Pascha next year.
- F. Both ovens now work thanks to the work done by Misha Mykhaylyuk.

- G. Dorothy Olson will be taking measurements in the kitchen to have ready for future kitchen renovation plans.
- H. The cross for on Herrick Hall is currently tabled. It will be readdressed later, for long term plans. There is currently \$1,000 in the Legacy Fund for the cross.

A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tom, approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55. Father gave the closing prayer.

Addendum 07-31-2024

Per email from Father John, 07-31-2024:

Fr John Thetford sent out an email to the parish council on July 31 sharing that Jeff Zdrate had asked if the memorial donations given to the parish for Bonita Zdrate could be used toward fixing the issue of the green tinged body of Christ on the large cross that is used for Holy Friday.

A motion was made by Fr John for Fr John to reach out to Iconographer Fr Paul Akmolin, whose work is already in our parish narthex, to get a quote as to how much such a project would cost, to either repaint the existing body, or to order a new one entirely of the same size.

The motion was seconded by Paul Novak and approved by all.

Addendum 08-05-2024

Per email from Paul Novak, 08-05-2024:

Paul Novak sent out an email to the parish council on August 5, relayed that a donation of three items was received for the big room makeover. The furniture is free and includes free delivery. It is being donated by the owner of the logistics company that he works for. (photos were included)

The items are:

1. Dining room table with 6 chairs
2. A cabinet (shelves with lower drawers)
3. A Lazy boy power recliner

Paul made a motion to accept this donation and then vote yes for us to take delivery of the furniture.

Matt Tomac seconded the motion.

Father John Thetford and Vera Limberopoulos both agreed they are in favor of the cabinet and table set but are not in favor of the recliner.

No reply from Tom Julian or Matt Massopust

