

St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: October 8, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Opening prayer was given by Paul Novak

Council members attending:

Father John Thetford – rector (excused)

Paul Novak - president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Noah Becker – (pending) corresponding secretary.

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guest: Jeff Zdrale

Paul reports that Noah Becker has accepted Father John's request to join the parish council. A big welcome to Noah.

Minutes from the September 10th parish council meeting were reviewed. Minor corrections were made to the draft to correct typos. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt, approved by all.

Father John's update (reported by Paul): We need additional readers and alter boys. Alejandro is gearing up to be a reader. This past Sunday we had two new alter boys, Dexter Panerra and Alexander Massopust.

Father is in Akron, OH (at the Dioecian assembly). Paul relayed that the bishop's speech was on the Midwest Diocesan app. The speech did call out additional missions, including Waupaca.

Catechism classes will be starting in January.

President's report - Paul Novak:

The Fall Festival is all set. Some volunteers will be setting up on Friday afternoon, and additional volunteers are secured for Saturday.

Dmitry Shkolnick is continuing to finish the (iconography) work. He is looking to come in mid-January for the installation.

The Ukrainians of WI recently participated the Appleton's Octoberfest. They will be donating their extra soda to us (for our festival fundraiser).

Vice president's report - Matt Tomac:

Minor repairs were made on one of the picnic tables.

Treasure's report – Tom Julian:

A special thanks to Noah and others that helped record finances while he was away.

The Mission and Benevolence Fund has a balance of \$21,070, with commitments of \$23,050. The Iconography Fund currently has \$58,053, and tentatively will have \$58,200 when the CD matures in December. The Building Fund has \$2,061. The Mortgage Fund is three months ahead. With the increase in Father's salary and pension, we are currently operating month to month on the Operating Fund. The plumbing inspection has been paid. The AC installation will be paid this week. The Benevolence Fund will have exceeded the budget this year. The Legacy Account balance is \$8,060. A portion was pulled to decrease the roof loan. The Chapel Fund was used to pay Mark Kotz who did window repairs on the chapel. This is an ongoing project. The roof loan is \$13,000+. We will address this at the annual meeting in 2025 to ramp up repaying this loan.

new business:

Paul made a motion for Noah Becker to join the parish council as corresponding secretary. Matt seconds the motion, approved by all.

Since Noah is replacing Mark, Paul will confirm how much time Mark had left in his position on the council. Noah will serve the remainder of the term (essentially as Mark).

Paul relayed that the previous biannual newsletter has run its course. The current Saturday email update (parish wide e-blast) has replaced it. It was suggested that photos from church events could accompany it, such as baptisms, etc. Individuals that take photos could possibly forward the photos to Noah, and he could forward them to the church email to be stored.

Noah has already been doing stuff in the background. Noah is informally the forerunner for the “young inquiries”. This is a continuation of the old youth group (over 18) up to approximately college aged. Paul suggested that we consider formalizing Noah and the group. [Matushka Photini runs the group of high school aged youth.]

The snow plowing contract needs a signature. Paul made a motion to accept the snow plowing contract, Matt seconded the motion, approved by all. Paul will sign the contract and send it out.

Paul proposes that the SMOC dinner be a potluck dinner. Dorothy and Katherine will decorate and set up the hall for the dinner. He also suggested that he could put together a picture show from his Turkey trip. He was very moved by so much iconography in the historic churches that he visited, some of which we see replicated in our own church. The presentation could be at the end of the meal or possibly upstairs.

The photo directory is coming along.

Tom purchased supplies to fence off the pussy willows with posts and 6' wire fence, to protect the plants from the deer.

Old business:

Ruth Larsen called Father John and wants her furniture. She is going to come and get it around December 1st. Notes (with updates) had been added to the document (regarding holding Ruth's furniture).

The building committee will need to come together soon (regarding work on the big room).

The kitchen faucet needs service. It makes a loud screaming sound. Matt and Tom are addressing it.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48