

St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: May 14, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. 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

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guests: Jeff Zdrale

2. Minutes from April 9, 2024, parish council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Paul, seconded by Tom. Approved by all.
3. Minutes from April 14, 2024, special parish council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Paul to approve and seconded by Tom. Approved by all.
4. Minutes from April 28, 2024, special parish meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Tom and seconded by Paul. Approved by all.

Reports / updates /old business:

2. Priest's report- Father John:

A. Father proposed that the church purchase a chalice to be used at St. Macrina Chapel. The cost estimate is \$300 -\$500. Paul, seconded the motion, approved by all.

B. Liturgical schedule:

1. On May 25th we will celebrate the baptism of Leya Artiukhova, infant daughter of Sergii and Nataliia.
2. Liturgy in Door County on June 29th.
3. The Landergren family (Gabriel, Lauren and their two young children) will be received into the church on June 30. We will have a baptismal Liturgy.

- 4. Sophia Roegner's wedding will be on July 28, in the afternoon.
- C. Father will be away on vacation in June. The deacon will be doing the service for Ascension.
- D. The next parish council meeting has been moved to June 18th.
- E. Father will be teaching the Diaconal Course for the Diocese via zoom around this that time in June.

2. President's report - Paul Novak:

- A. Paul has been keeping track of attendance since Palm Sunday. He will continue to do so going forward to share the data at next year's annual meeting.
- B. The church directory had previously been maintained by Linda Bisbee. She will no longer be able to manage it. Father John and Paul relayed that it would be a good fit for them to maintain it since they have the information. Going forward the directory that will be shared with the parish will only contain limited information (names, phone numbers and emails). The change was made to maintain the safety of members. A complete directory with additional information will be available to the parish council.
- C. We had a great Pascha. Father confirmed and relayed that the calla lilies worked well.

3. Vice president's report - Matt Tomac: (absent)

Paul relayed that Matt had nothing to report.

4. Treasurer's report - Tom Julian:

- A. **Iconography:** We are looking to meet our deadline by September 1st.
- B. Giving overall has been strong but has been down the last 2 weeks. We need to be diligent.
- C. **The roof:** So far \$9,200 has been donated for the roof fund and has been put into the building fund. We borrowed \$28,000 for the roof with \$681 paid up front. He would like to have this loan paid off by our next annual meeting in February.
- D. Tom reports that we have \$10,000 in the Legacy and Endowment Fund. We are allowed to take up to 50% from the fund during a calendar year. Tom proposes that we use \$5,000 from the Legacy Fund to immediately lower the roof loan. Paul seconded the motion. Approved by all.

The remaining roof funds will go into the P42 Fund. Once we have the final roof invoice, double payments will be made (adding the P42 income of \$313) with the goal of retiring the loan in less than 1 year.

Old business / new business

5. Pascha dinner. Vera mentioned that some parish members noted that we appeared to run out of some of the food. We might consider other options next year. Tom relayed that traditionally families ate from their baskets. Thoughts for next year.

6. Father's presentation: "Building up the Church – Connectedness."

What we offer as an Orthodox Church is appealing to people. We offer connectedness, to God and to each other. In a sacramental sense and a social sense. We have made the shift from a small mission to a well-functioning parish. The final steps that remain are to build up Christian communities where people can have lasting connections. A place where people worship together, but also a place where people can build lasting and real friendships. A common thread among converts (both secular and protestant) prior to converting has been a lack of connection.

How do we do better what we're already doing?

We are already here after liturgy. There could be the opportunity for folks to socialize longer if interested.

The upstairs big room could be converted to a multi-use room. This area could give teenagers and young adults an area to socialize. Adding tables could provide overflow seating for 25 people. The room could house a library on one side, tables in another area and possibly a ping pong table and coffee bar. We might use moveable bookshelves as dividers. It would be modular so it would be flexible in its use.

A playground outside would provide a safe area for younger kids, ages 3 -5. It could have a low wall utilizing planters on the roadside. This would help the parents with the children and help to keep the toddlers from being a tripping hazard for seniors. The proposed area for this would be upstairs outside of the big room.

These are some ideas to help us grow together. Father is the project manager.

7. The cemetery project update: Tom has done exploratory work on this. He has found a Catholic Church with a cemetery in Denmark, about 20 minutes south of Green Bay on Hwy 43. They have a chapel and an open area with plots available that could be designated for Orthodox Christians. Their plots \$400 each with 10 – 12 currently available. They would be purchased by individuals as needed. Jeff Zdrale asked if the council has the approval and if there was even an interest in doing this. Father reported that 14 months ago John Limberopoulos asked about a cemetery, and the topic was brought up at a previous council meeting. Paul made a motion for Tom to put together information for a course of action to formalize the conversation for the cemetery project. Vera seconded the motion, approved by all.

8. The cross for Herrick Hall: The company that built the cross quoted price for proposed new cross \$16,734, plus the install totaling \$20,000. There is another company that does crosses and cupolas. It

might be cost prohibitive. Paul made a motion to approach Kulp's Roofing and Cupolas for an estimate. Father seconded the motion, approved by all.

9. Jeff commented that Herrick Hall looked nice but was curious where the items (collages, etc.) were that were no longer on the walls. Paul reports that they were safe in the upstairs closet. Also, that Jeff's award from the bishop would be given to Jeff and the various colages would be given to the appropriate people. Additionally, it was noted that a digital copy would be made for the church historical records.

A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Father John, approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31.

Father gave the closing prayer.