



St. Mark COC – Troy – Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2016

ATTENDANCE

- **Present:** Fr. Mina, Fr. Maximus, Magid Athnasios, Karim ElFishawy, Maged Essak, Ashraf Morcos, Nadia Zaki, Mark Nasr
- **Excused Absences:** Miriam Howard
- **Unexcused Absences:** None

INTRODUCTION

- Fr. Maximus began the meeting with prayer at 12:10pm
- The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved as presented.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- I. **Naguib Bekheet – Service Committee Updates**
 - a. There is an issue with the cleanliness of both churches and it must be addressed directly with the congregation. The awareness committee joined the board for this discussion on ongoing efforts to curb the issues presently faced.
 - b. There is a need for storage on site. Various needs from short term to long term storage is essential. Options were presented and will be incorporated into our request of The Design Team.
 - c. The church is in need of additional labor workers. The current demand exceeds the labor force available. All Fathers and individuals will brainstorm possible future personnel. It will be a modestly paid position.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Health Insurance: The health insurance provider will return to Blue Cross Blue Shield. Following review of many plans available, a plan was presented with combined health, dental and vision and was recommended by the Board.
- II. Following a pre-board meeting with the leaders of the awareness committee, the board discussed and approved certain rules which are to be implemented immediately in both churches:
 - a. All congregation members must clean up after themselves.
 - b. There is absolutely no food or drinks allowed in the church.
 - c. The coffee following church services will be served to the congregation by designated servants only.

- d. Anyone found to have caused damage will be responsible for paying for the damage caused. This includes parents paying for damage caused by their children.
 - e. There will be a designated partitioned-off area for nursing mothers in the crying room.
 - f. The awareness committee is in charge of informing those selling food or drinks when it is acceptable to do so (i.e not during church services). The Board is to be informed of anyone not listening to the direction of the designated servant.
 - g. All congregation members are encouraged to take photographs of mishaps but to refrain from taking photographs of individuals.
 - h. If you **See Something, Say Something** to an usher, servant or board member.
 - i. A proposal to remove the pop machine from St. Mary & St. Philopater or replace it with a water only was discussed and tabled for further discussion.
 - i. There will be a presentation with these rules following both liturgies next week, January 17, 2016.
 - j. In addition to the rules described above, each Sunday school servant is encouraged to spend part of their lesson teaching about the need to keep the churches clean.
- III. Site Plan: Ft. Maximus and Mark Nasr will review the old drawings stored on site to determine whether they are of any use and to pass the same along to The Design Team for consideration in advance of our meeting with them.
- IV. Cleaning St. Mary: Ft. Maximus discussed the need for continuous and weekly cleaning of St. Mary/St. Philopater's church now that we are occupying it. He will discuss the opportunity with John and Phylis.
- V. Church on the East Side: Ashraf Morcos presented an update on the progress of the efforts to determine the viability of a church on the east side. There is presently a church being sold by the Catholic Archdiocese. It has 325 parking spots and 825 seats on 10 acres. It was visited once and another visit is planned. There will also be a discussion with the congregation and the Fathers following the Town Hall meeting on January 24, 2016.
- VI. Town Hall on January 24, 2016: Karim ElFishawy and Nadia Zaki will work on the Town Hall presentation together. Maged Essak will present after the first liturgy and Nadia Zaki will present after the second liturgy.
- VII. Donation Statements: The Treasurer hopes to have all donation statements sent out by the end of January.
- VIII. After the First Liturgy: A suggestion was made that when possible, a Father will remain with the congregation after the First Liturgy

inside of the Hall at St. Mark. No decision has been made on this issue at this time.

- IX. Mission Statement: The board reviewed a draft of the Mission Statement, which will be placed on the Church's website. After review, the Board approved the following:

As an Orthodox Christian Church, St. Mark / St. Mary & St. Philopater Coptic Orthodox Church, we adhere to and preach the faith, doctrine, and worship of the ancient Christian faith handed down to us from Jesus Christ through His apostles under the auspices of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, the Holy See of St. Mark and the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

We worship and serve our Lord Jesus Christ and His Father and the Holy Spirit, to shine the Trinity's loving and glorious light through ministries of liturgy, education, and social services.

We welcome all people who seek the loving salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also Coptic (Christian Egyptians) and desire to preserve the heritage of our ancestors that has been preserved by over 2000 years of Christian posterity, thus bringing to the modern world the lives of Egyptian men, women, and children who sacrificed their lives for the name of Jesus Christ.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- IV. The next board meeting will take place on Sunday, February 7, 2016
- V. Fr. Mina concluded the meeting with prayer at 2:45pm.

Signatures:

Fathers:

Board Members:

Secretary: