

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church-Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Minutes for January 20, 2016

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:38 p.m. with Father Dean leading us in prayer who was present for the duration of the meeting, as was Father George. Fr Dean Botsis presided over the meeting.

Parish Council Members in Attendance: Present: P Giannopoulos, T Karabatsos, T Kanelos, A Koutsikos, A Rizos, A Demeros, R Kozlowski, N Gianaris, D Houpis, N Andrews, W Bozikis, K Apithis, K Ioannou, T Bournias, E Kiriazopoulos, T Sikoral, D Loomos, ~~J Aliferis~~, G. Anastasiadis.

Also present: J. Pierce

Absent: M Pontikes, C Agalliu, J. Aliferis.

Parish Council oath recited by T Kanelos and W Bozikis.

Nominations of Parish Council Board:

President: Nomination of P Giannopoulos by T Kanelos-accepted and elected by acclamation

Vice President: Nomination of N Andrews by A Rizos-accepted and elected by acclamation

Treasurer: Nomination of D Loomos by A Demeros-accepted and elected by acclamation

Secretary: Nomination of A Koutsikos by T Kanelos-accepted

1st Asst. Treasurer: Nomination of W Bozikis by D Loomos-accepted

1st Asst. Secretary: Nomination of G Anastasiadis by W. Bozikis-declined; Nomination of K Apithis by P Giannopoulos-accepted and elected by acclamation

2nd Asst. Treasurer: Nomination of A Rizos by W Bozikis-accepted

After the elections Father Dean stressed that the focus for Parish Council members is spiritual in nature, and the chairmanship of the meeting was given to the newly elected president.

President's Remarks:

Members in attendance were greeted and new members welcomed by President Giannopoulos. He explained the importance of Parish Council members setting an example for the community. G Anastasiadis advised that he was stepping down from the Parish Council for a year. Accordingly, due to the vacancy, the Parish Council can elect any parish member ~~in his stead~~ to fill vacancy.

Motion: P.C. elect in sequential order the next candidate with the highest votes made by 1st T Kanelos/2nd T Karabatsos. Discussion-motion withdrawn.

Correspondence:

Acknowledgement/thank you letters for past donation of \$100.00 to Greater Chicago Ministries / Special Olympics/ Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries / Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

Acknowledgement/thank you letter for past donation of \$150.00 Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

Acknowledgement/thank you letter for past donation of \$250.00 to IOCC -Response to Syria Crisis.

Acknowledgement/thank you letter for past donation of \$1,000.00 to OCMC.

Minutes:

Minutes from 10-21-15 meeting reviewed and corrected of typo error.

Motion: Accepted as corrected 1st T Karabatsos / 2nd T Kanelos

Vote: 8-0-6

Minutes from 12-16-15 meeting reviewed.

Motion: Accept minutes 1st R Kozlowski/2nd A Rizos

Vote: 7-0-7

G Anastasiadis was present for the limited scope to report information to P.C. regarding Sandy's request for increased hours in correlation to increased workload. Inquiry focus was the need to increase hours and in return would additional responsibilities be advantageous for the parish. Budget wise the requested increase of hours would equate to an additional budget salary expense of \$8,900.00 (at present working 28.5 hrs and looking to increase to 36.5 hours per week). Financial consideration given and can be done as the school programs are doing well and any surplus can be used to offset the increase of annual salary versus assistance via Outreach Budget. Increased work responsibilities would be to effectively implement the ACS system to track collection, cash receipts, stewardship, generating school tuition statements, weekly bulletin and Visions draft, building management documentation/scheduling, etc.

Motion: Grant increase of 8 hrs weekly as requested by Sandy by 1st D Houpis/A Demeros. Discussion with additional stipulation that increase is done provisionally and then reviewed.

Vote: 2-13-1 motion failed

Motion: Increase Sandy's hours as aforementioned with an end date of 6 months unless renewed vote by P.C. and provided she meets the criteria set by P.C. made by 1st T Bournias/2nd A Demeros

Vote: 14-1-1 motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: To table any pending financial report to next P.C. meeting made by 1st T Kanelos/ 2nd R Kozlowski

Vote: 16-0-0 motion passed

Committee Reports:

Outreach Committee- updated by J Pierce. Identified ongoing programs (Bessie's Table, Meals on Wheels, Feed My Starving Children and Coat Drive). Need to increase volunteers and educate what the efforts of committee are all about. Suggestion that Committee assume coffee hour schedule after Sunday liturgy.

2016 Dinner Dance-menu selected, live music will be entertainment, collection from members for the ad book.

Phase III - As to construction aspect narrowing selection of General Contractor to be chosen. Fund raising packets to be mailed out next week. Question posed as to who is the committee's chairperson- to date P Giannopoulos has been acting chairperson and as P.C. president he has the authority to appoint chairperson. President Giannopoulos appointed himself as committee chairperson for Phase III. Next Phase III committee scheduled for 2-3-16 @ 7:30 p.m. at which time ongoing review of contractors' bids and determine which to invite back for final interview before final selection made.

Tom Sikoral appointed as Finance Chairperson, to explore financing options. N Gianaris has discussed with banker non-for profit financing options. There is a fundraising committee as well, who are ongoing with their efforts.

Building and Grounds- Solea railing needs additional 3 weeks in fabrication;

Some of the classroom windows were sealed/insolated; last classroom is very cold; T. Karabatsos was asked to look at it.

2016 Stewardship-In 2015 at this time there were 167 that pledged a total of \$100,160.00 in comparison to 2016 where 155 have pledged a total of \$104,265.00. D Houpis advised that he wanted to be on the Stewardship committee. President advised that he wanted everyone on P.C. to be on one of 5 separate committees he envisions as necessary for the good of the parish-those identified as Building and Grounds; Stewardship, Administrative, Treasury, Fundraising.

2016 Food Fest-Meetings to start up soon.

Fund Raising- New Year's Eve dinner party attended by 70 people and netted \$3,000.00

For Bright Friday looking to have a "Lamb Cook Off" with more details to be forthcoming.

For the Good of the Parish- Vespers on 2-9-16 and Feast day 2-10-16 will require additional ushers.

Discussion as to setting a date certain for P.C. to go to St. Iakovos Retreat Center

Priest's Remarks:

This upcoming Sunday Bishop Demetrios will be in attendance. In addition, this upcoming Sunday the Sanctity of Life Service will be held.

On 1-31-16 the Greek Letters Luncheon will be held.

Motion: To adjourn made by 1st A Rizos/ 2nd E Kiriazopoulos

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Argy Koutsikos, Recording Secretary

Open Items for resolution:

- 1) School programs to be assessed by professional team of educators
- 2) Basketball hoop for the youth.
- 3) Parish Council going for retreat to St. Iakovos Retreat Center.