

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church-Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Minutes for February 17, 2016

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:46 p.m. with Father Dean leading us in prayer who was present for the duration of the meeting, as was Father George. President Giannopoulos presided over the meeting, for its duration, and Argy Koutsikos, as recording secretary, recorded the matters addressed.

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

President's Remarks: Members in attendance were greeted by President Giannopoulos and agenda matters were addressed as follows:

Minutes:

Motion: To table minutes from the 11-20-16 meeting 1st T Kanelos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos

Vote: Passed unanimous (11-0-0)

Correspondence:

- 1) Thank you acknowledgement for donation to OCMC.
- 2) Save the date announcement from St. Spyridon GOC upcoming 100th Anniversary Gala on 10-17-17.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Statement Report for end of the 2015calendar year (12-31-15) presented.
Short explanation given for new member to understand how financial statement is read and the distinctions between the separate "cash in" bank accounts- discussion had.

Motion: To accept Financial Statement as presented 1st E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd T Karabatsos

Vote: 13-0-1

Committee Reports:

a) 65th Anniversary Dinner Dance-Event was a lovely evening with great food and music. Total net approximated to be \$32,000.00 - Eleni Bousis made a donation for the banquet hall expenses. Discussion as to sending a thank you acknowledgement to her as well as Mrs. Katina Vaselopoulos who donated the truffles.

b) Phase III- There is a banner on the bulletin board in the foyer of the community center showing what capital has been raised to date. Thus far 1.750 million has been pledged but we are still short from our goal in order to break ground. As to the construction planning aspect of the project the contractors have been asked to provide more details as to their proposed line items. Discussion had as to the cost attributable to the printed brochures and posting distributed to educate the parishioners as to the Phase III project.

Motion: by D Houpis to open a separate checking account for Phase III activities- discussion had as to existence of same- no action taken on motion. Second motion made by D Houpis that we start building the expanded parking lot as proposed in Phase III plans- discussion had as to the necessity to further investigate the feasibility of same and whether doing so prematurely may compromise its structural integrity after the rest of the construction gets under way- motion withdrawn at this time.

c) 2016 Food Fest- dates are July 15-16-17. R Kozlowski has secured 1st donation of 8,000 plastic cups. 1st meeting will be after church on 2-28-16.

d) Outreach Committee- Saturday, 2/20/16 will be the next scheduled "Meals on Wheels;" Bessie's table is 2/29/16.

e) **School Board**- there is need for a teacher replacement for a vacancy from the Saturday Greek School when Giasimi Sarantreras left in December, 2015. The vacancy replacement recommended is Eleni Papatotiriou.

Motion: To fill the aforesaid vacancy with Eleni Papatotiriou retroactively made by 1st T Karabatsos/2nd A Rizos **Vote:** 14-0-0

f) **Building and Grounds**- railing for Solea is fabricated but final finish coat to be selected(samples provided); doors in the passageway and in community center need to be addressed to guarantee they are secured when exiting; last class room's window has been insulated; to address a water leak that recently occurred in Father George's office due to the last bad storm.

g) **Stewardship** update- as of 2/17/16, 273 families have pledged a total of \$168,170.00 (average \$616.00)

For the Good of the Parish:

1) D Houpis posed the question if a report can be provided from the athletic director as to our youths' programs- would be a means to determine what increase, if any, would be appropriate to facilitate our youth programs and/or expand same.

2) T Kanelos advised that in mid-December there was a fire in a 78 unit complex, located at 9701 Dee Road, Niles where multiple families lost their valuables and are in needs of financial assistance and /or replacement items such as clothing, small appliances, etc. -Niles Community Family Services is taking donations.

Motion: To donate \$1,000.00 out of the Outreach budget by 1st T Kanelos/ 2nd W Bozikis

Vote: Unanimous

3) **Fund raisers**- Discussion of alternative to Bright Friday dinner- in lieu of dinner held in the past this year try something different- *Competitive Lamb Roast Cook-Off*; charge a \$50.00 entry fee; contestants to be provided with a table work area and electricity ;contestants would have to provide everything else as well as a piece of lamb big enough to have all who come try from each entry; get three local personalities/celebrity judges who will determine the best cooked lamb and winner will be acknowledged with some sort of trophy /plaque. Other food items will be prepared by Parish Council members to supplement the dinner -charge for those attending the lamb cook-off dinner TBD- music will also be provided. Chair people who volunteered T Karabatsos and T Kanelos.

4) Father George discussed an outreach/spiritual event scheduled for Goyans that will take place from April 14 -17th. The trip planned is to St. Basil's Academy in New York. There are 32 high school youths who are registered and 6 chaperon parents. There are several activities planned with 1.5 days to be spent at the orphanage, some fun activities are planned as well. Cost approximated at @ \$440.00 per person which includes flight, transportation in New York, lodging and some meals. At that time a donation of \$2,000.00 will be made by the St. Haralambos Goyans. (\$1,000.00 already raised by the last fundraiser they held and a \$25.00 donation from each person that is already factored into the cost of the trip. The addition expenses will be 4 meals that each person will have to pay for on their own.

Motion: To donate \$2,000.00 out of the Youth Program budget towards the trip as deemed fit to cover expense, made by 1st T Kanelos/ 2nd R Kozlowski

Vote: Unanimous

5) Comment made by D Houpis as to last Sunday's sermon by Father George -What is a leader/that requires knowledge. D Houpis discussed its practical relevance in all our lives especially as Parish Council members in that we have been bestowed with the responsibility to put the best interests and needs of our parishioners as our objective/goal. How best to do that but with obtaining knowledge on the issues that we discuss and act upon. Congratulation to Father George on his 2nd year anniversary.

6) President Giannopoulos has given thought as to the 5 different committees he considers best addresses our parish's needs and accordingly each Parish Council member has been assigned to a committee as follows:

Stewardship- D Houpis, T Bournias

Treasury- D Loomos, W Bozikis, A Rizos

Building and Grounds- M Pontikes, T Karabatsos, T Kanelos, A Demeros

Fundraiser events- E Kiriazopoulos, K Apithis, R Kozlowski, A Koutsikos

Administration- N Gianaris, N Andrews, T Sikoral, J Aliferis, K Ioannou, C Agalliu

7) Insurance policy is up for renewal and it would be ripe for discussion with another carrier to see if a better quote and coverage can be negotiated.

8) Father Dean advised next meeting in during the 1st week of lent and it will commence after the Pre-Sanctified liturgy. This also brings the subject discussed by Dennis Prager talk show host who asked question what is the most important passage in the Bible- Genesis 1.1 "In the beginning God created Heaven and earth...." As Parish Council members we have a spiritual obligation to pray and glorify God as an example to our community and the hope is that we amplify our liturgical and spiritual lives . In April Parish Council meeting falls on the 1st day of the Philoptochos Bake Sale (4/20/16).

9) Father George discussed how his sermon was focused on the concept of praying for one another- would like to start having prayer service before meetings as is done during family night program- go into the Church and keep each other in our prayers

A good way to lead into that is the Forgiveness Service on 3-13 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:48 by 1st A Rizos/2nd R Kozlowski- unanimous-adjourned

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 as a group to St. Iakovos Retreat Center.