

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church-Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Minutes for March 16, 2016

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 8:15 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, R Kozlowski, W Bozikis, K Ioannou, N Andrews, D Houpis, T Sikoral, E Kiriazopoulos, D Loomos, L Konstantellos.

Absent: K Apithis, C Agalliu, J Aliferis, T Bournias, N Gianaris, A Demeros.

President's Remarks: Members in attendance were greeted by President Giannopoulos, Introduction was made of the new member Larry Konstantellos and agenda matters were addressed as follows:

Treasurer's Report: Financial Report of 1-31-16 was reviewed and discussed highlighting any variances.

Motion: To accept Financial Statement as presented made by 1st A Rizos/ 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote: 11-0-1**

New Member Larry Konstantellos was sworn in -taking the oath for Parish Council.

Minutes: Minutes from 2-17-16 meeting reviewed and typographical errors corrected.

Motion: To accept minutes as correct made by 1st R Kozlowski/2nd D Houpis

Vote: 10-0-2

Motion: To table minutes from 1-16-16 meeting made by 1st A Koutsikos/2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote: 10-0-2**

Correspondence:

- 1) St. John Parish Brebeuf Catholic Church celebrating its 50th Anniversary announcement;
- 2) Greek American Rehabilitation Center 3rd annual Dinner Fashion Show save the date announcement and ad book sponsorship request.

Motion: To donate \$300.00 made by 1st M Pontikes/2nd T Kanelos

Vote: 13-0-0

Committee Reports:

A) Outreach Committee: Mr. Pierce presented summary of various activities: Meals on Wheels continues which involves a rotation of cooking teams on a Saturday/date certain each month and meals are delivered to those identified in need or shut-ins; new initiatives are being discussed; Bessie's Table is the 3rd Monday of the month and previously determined that Parish Council members will tend to the 5-23-16 date.

B) School Board Report: Board President presented report and discussed certain line items to include # 38 (hardships) # 50 (discretionary spend) # 53, 57, 65 and 66 which reflect income/deficit/collected tuition/and expenses. Further discussion by the School Board to freeze tuition for the upcoming year and the registration forms have already been printed to that effect- the exception is an additional \$150.00 charge if a new student enrolls whose family is not a member of parish - it was noted that this was

published without consideration and approval by Parish Council.

Motion: All school programs to include the Greek programs, day programs and Sunday School should show no income net on the annual budget made by 1st D Houpis/2nd M Pontikes. Discussion had. **Vote: 2-10-2 Motion failed.**

Motion: Next year no tuitions to be determined and published without P.C. approval made by 1st T Kanelos/ 2nd A Rizos **Vote: Unanimous**

C) Food Fest- Next meeting on 3/29/16. Mike Pontikes is working with Audi dealer for a grand prize vehicle within a certain monetary value; this year there will not be a lamb tent but there will be lamb chops sold in its absence.

D) Phase III- To date we have reached 30% of projected project cost or @ 1.810 million dollars; as to construction phase the prospective contractors are doing additional proposal modifications/there is a 3rd general contractor now involved . General discussion as to construction phase as well as the identity of the committee chairperson.

Motion: To prepare a budget for a completed Phase III project assuming no loan obtained or in the alternative assume a loan of 2.4 million and what the projected monthly payments would be in addition to preparing a projected operating budget for the new facility made by 1st D Houpis/ **no 2nd -no vote -no further discussion**

E) Stewardship update: As of 3/23/16 there are 323 families have pledged a total of \$189,095.00 (average of \$585.43) vs. 3/18/15 where there were 340 families that pledged \$196,195.00 (average of 571.16)

Discussion as to Stewardship Committee - D Houpis volunteered to be its chairperson. Discussion that what is stewardship is not only to be viewed as a monetary value but other forms of donations; from a review of stewardship pledges between 2008 through 2015 there is an indication of minimal growth-question is how do we empower our parishioners to feel invested for future growth.

F) Buildings and Grounds- Doors in the Community Center needs @ \$600.00 in parts to repair and the door in the walkway should also be addressed; the classroom windows on the Caldwell side would be sealed off permanently to address its current state.

Motion: To make the appropriate repairs with a budget not to exceed \$1,200.00 made by 1st M Pontikes/ 2nd A Koutsikos **Vote: Unanimous**

Solea Railing still in the process of having the finish shine done before installation; the bell needs lubrication; burnt out chandelier lamps to be replaced and at the same time the head lamps need to be replaced and/or re-aimed; the parking lot lights also need some bulbs replaced.

Discussion as to the southeast corner parking lot that we rent at \$1,000.00 a month. D Houpis proposed that we go forward with laying a parking lot on our adjacent empty lot- he secured an estimate that would result in 30 spots at the cost of \$6,000.00 by putting down packed gravel--it was made know that Niles will not allow a gravel parking lot.

G) Lamb Roast Competition- There is a prepared article ready for the next newsletter that will be published -event to be held on Saturday 5/7/16 with an entry fee for contestants set at \$50.00.

H) Ushering- There is a schedule that will be mailed out and all on the schedule are asked to show up and assist- assistance is needed.

For the Good of the Parish:

There are always a variety of community events hosted by all the organizations of the Parish that have noticed that Parish Council members are absent- as Parish Council members you are to lead by example and thus your involvement or lack thereof is noticed- please make an effort to support other sponsored events.

Discussion that there should be a column in Visions authored by the P.C. president giving a brief summary of what is on the agenda/ giving information as to the Parish concerns and actions taken so there is a sense of transparency.

Jr. Olympics coming up on Memorial Day weekend-Friday night kicks off with bowling- usually there are @ 100 St Haralambos kids that participate in the Jr. Olympics events. The Parish bylaws and the URP bylaws are on the Archdiocese website.

Priest's Remarks:

Father Dean stated that as we have started Lent there is Church services all week long and Council members should attend. Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be held in Elmhurst on 3-20-16.

This period is an opportunity to increase our sacramental and spiritual lives- when we pray do we pray to God or to ourselves- is it a growth process?

Congratulations to Father Dean as today is his 36th year anniversary when he became a Deacon.

Motion to adjourn made by 1st A Rizos/2nd E Kiriazopoulos - unanimous

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. 4) Circulate copy of Parish Bylaws to all Parish Council members