

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Niles, Illinois

Parish Council Meeting for Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:12 p.m. with Father Dean leading us in prayer who was present for the duration of the meeting, as was Father George. President Perry Giannopoulos presided over the meeting, for its duration, and Katerina Apithis, as recording secretary, recorded the matters addressed.

Parish Council Members in Attendance:

Present: P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, R Kozlowski, E Kiriazopoulos, N Andrews, A Rizos, T Kanelos, D Loomos, K Ioannou, N Gianaris, C Agalliu, D Houpis, W Bozikis, M Pontikes, T Karabatsos, T Bournias, A Demeros, and A Koutsikos, and K Apithis.

Absent: T Sikoral, L Konstantellos

President's Remarks: Members in attendance were greeted by President Giannopoulos and provided the minutes from January to be read while Fr. Dean asked if any members in attendance that had not taken the Oath of Office. N Gianaris and K Ioannou were absent at that time so they took the Oath at tonight's meeting. A question was brought up as to why we take the Oath even though the members were part of the council before. For the record in the UPR Article 26, section 3 the Oath should be taken every year.

Presentation Uniform Parish Regulations & Parish Bylaws:

President Giannopoulos went ahead and started the "Special Session" that was planned for this evening. He turned the meeting over to T Kanelos. Mr. Kanelos stated that the Parish Council is elected to serve as a ministry, we are the official representatives of the church, and we are the face that goes out there that most people see first thing. Since we are the representatives of the church the parishioners look at the parish council as examples. Basically, we swore to understand, to live and to uphold the tenants and teachings of the Orthodox faith. We also swear to affirm, to understand and abide by the regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. These are set by the Clergy Laity Congresses. Copies of the Uniform Parish Regulations were passed out and a guidebook for Parish Council members describing what the parish council is all about.

Mr. Kanelos stated that our responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, developing, and organizing and implementing various programs of the church. They also include various recording and communication responsibilities both to the Metropolis and from the Archdiocese Metropolis down to the parish. This means that we should not have an "us vs them" mentality. We are one church. Every year we have an Archdiocese Clergy Laity Congress that's made up from representatives from every parish of the Archdiocese and we gather every two years in different locations to address the business of the church. Also, every two years we have a Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly to address business of the church but in a Metropolis level. The Parish doesn't exist without the Metropolis. Every year we have elections and they are ratified by the Metropolis or they are not valid. The UPR states that with cause the Metropolis can remove one or more or all parish council members. The parish council is accountable to the General Assembly. The parish GA is a higher authority than we are. If the GA decides

to change something the parish council doesn't have the right to change that decision. Only the GA can change that. Both of these bodies the Parish Council and the General Assembly exist to work together with the priest in advancing the growth of the parish. Mr. Kanelos went over some of the regulations such as Article 29 Section 1 which states: The members of the PC shall attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the parishioners. Also, Section 2: All personnel employed by the PC including school teachers are engaged or discharged by the PC with the consent of the priest.

Next, President Giannopoulos passed out our parish bylaws. Our parish bylaws are less detailed but they are more restrictive. Here are some that were discussed: Article III discusses about stewardship aka membership. Article IV – parish assembly discusses how we need to have a quorum for transacting business at parish assemblies and the requirement that ten percent of all stewards having voting privileges are present. Article V- election of parish council discusses the regulations of to elect the Parish Council; Voting shall be by secret ballot and in person. There shall be no voting by proxy or balloting by mail, and there shall be no voting by absentee ballot.

Fr. Dean suggested that we may need to make some revisions of our bylaws and submit a draft to the Metropolis and then bring it to the General Assembly for subject of approval.

School Board:

Olympia Bournias presented the School Board information:

1. Salary Increase for the Saturday dance session which the teacher is paid per session. In October he was asked to increase his dance session by 30 minutes from an hour & half at \$65 to 2 hrs which he asked for a raised of \$80. School board did approve him at \$80 per session.

Motion: To increase salary to \$90 per session made 1st by A Demeros 2nd by A Koutsikos

Vote: 14-3-1

2. Tuition: Morning school tuition: the 2016-2017 morning sessions have three separate programs:

a. M-F program to increase tuition from \$3400 to \$3600

b. M/W/F program to increase tuition from \$2175 to \$2300

c. The enrichment program (1pm-230pm) M-F to increase tuition from \$1175-\$1200

Unique also to the morning school will be \$100 discount per family if tuition is paid in full.

3. Afternoon and Saturday schools have the same tuition rates: to raise tuition from \$800 to \$850 for both schools. Also to give \$50 discount per family for full tuition paid in December.

4. All schools would like to receive \$50 discount per family for early registration. We have had this for a few years now and it's very popular with families to register at the end of the school year.

5. Any family that is new to St. Haralambos School will be assessed \$500 additional fee for anyone who is not a steward of St Haralambos by June 1st.

** Currently we have this implemented for new families that have come in to St. Haralambos but we also give them a \$350 courtesy discount on that. School Board also voted to continue to grand-father in all families who are not a member of St. Haralambos who've had their children in the program and continue to give them the member rate.

Motion: To approve the tuition as presented by the school board 1st A Demeros & 2nd T Karabatsos

Vote: 9-6-2

Minutes: President Giannopoulos asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: To approve the January minutes 1st D Houpis 2nd by E Kiriazopoulos

Vote: 12-0-6

Meeting Minutes Elections: President Giannopoulos asked for a motion to approve the election minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes 1st E Kiriazopoulos 2nd R Kozlowski

Vote: 16-0-2

Correspondence:

1. Save the date Sunday, October 15th, 2017. 100th Anniversary for St. Spyridon GOC
2. Contribution to the Religious Education presented by Fr. George

Motion: To donate \$250 1st by T Kanelos 2nd by Nick Andrews

Vote: 16-0-2

Committee Reports:

- A. Anniversary Luncheon: It was a great day and everyone had a lot of fun. We hit the \$20,000 mark plus a donation of \$2200 to Phase III from the 50/50 raffle ticket which the winner donated back to St. Haralambos. Music was great, food was great, all in all we all had a wonderful time; it was an outstanding event.
- B. Phase III update: Waiting for contractors to update their proposals. On the fundraising side we are at the \$2.3 million mark; we will meet with the fundraising committee to come up with some ideas for future fundraising. Thus far we have collected a little over a million dollars.
- C. 2017 Greek Fest: Dates are July 14, 15 and 16th. M Pontikes will contact the car dealership and once that is finalized we will have our first food fest meeting.
- D. Garage replacement: M Pontikes will look into solving this issue.
- E. Outreach: John Pierce not in attendance, however there will be a meeting 1st wk of March.
- F. Parish Software: G Giolas presented his findings: Looking for different software for the office; Cost is very competitive- It's \$38 /month for the stewardship piece and \$31/month for the financial piece. All together you're looking at \$70/month which is less than what we're paying now. You'll be able to email; it has mobile integration; it has remote access for designated personnel; it integrates with your google calendar, iPhones; Allows to do stewardship on-line; It has Vanco – which allows for electronic donation button; it has various components of what we are looking for. Free support for the first year and we get unlimited support and there is available training if needed.

Motion: To move forward with this new program 1st by C Agaliu 2nd by R Kozlowski.

Vote: 17-0-1

- G. **Stewardship:** tabled this for the evening as Fr. Dean didn't have an accurate report
- H. **Buildings & Grounds:** Some members of the parish council met with the individuals who discussed tuck-pointing and roof updates and came to the conclusion that we can't do any tuck-pointing until it gets a little warmer. So continuing in getting some additional proposals; We can't just proceed with what the issue is; We need to make sure that whatever we do is the right decision; Windows will also need to be replaced; D Houpis and G Giolas will get together and do a quick spreadsheet to see what our options are.

For the Good of the Parish:

D Loomos mentioned that for Basketball the only team in the playoffs is the girl's team which they play Saturday, February 18th. They are playing at Sts. Peter & Paul and if they win the play again at Sts. Peter & Paul. New this year is that the following week there's an All Star Game which include all of our kids; some of the grade-school kids & 8th grade, High-school boy and girls would play in the All Star game and 3-point contest. Junior Olympics is coming up as well which D Loomos will be now working with the executive committee so if there are any issues please let him know.

M Pontikes reminded everyone that whatever is being discussed in the parish council meetings should stay within the parish council meeting and not to discuss or criticize other members.

P Giannopoulos also mentioned to keep discussions at the pagari to a minimum. We need to cut out the talk at the pagari. It is way over done;

D Houpis mentioned that we need to bring back youth ushers. Teenagers 16 yrs old and over should take part of the ushering duties besides the parish council. At least once a month. We should also allow the young ladies to also read the Epistle but that is up to Fr. Dean.

A Koutsikos brought up to do a variety show. Thought process was to do St. Haralambos Got Talent in a May or September/October setting and for entertainment purposes. Does Dave have a venue? We could also do a comedy night with multiple acts; Argy will take this on for a fall setting.

E Kiriazopoulos looking for a Greek night- and Bright Friday/Saturday lamb completion.

P Giannopoulos mentioned that tomorrow night is our Philoptochos Annual Tsiknopempti dinner and all are welcomed for the great food and music.

A Demeros mentioned to find a date for the PC gathering at the camp retreat.

Priests Remarks:

The Parish Council needs to be present at our other organizations functions. On top of all else on September 30th there will be a city-wide Pan Orthodox celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Coming of Orthodox in Chicago. More details to come and possibly a lot of help as well. Will likely take place at Lane Tech High School's auditorium. There will be a Saturday morning liturgy. Keep that date open in your calendars.

Finally, Fr. Dean mentioned that T Karabatsos also should take the Oath of Office at the end of the meeting since he too was absent at that time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting 1st by A Rizos and 2nd by K Apithis. Motion was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katerina Apithis,
Secretary