

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

Parish Council Meeting for Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Parish Council Members in Attendance:

Present: K Apithis, E Kiriazopoulos, R, Kozlowski, A Rizos, N Andrews, D Houpis, T Kanelos, G Giolas, K Ioannou, T Bournias, N Gianaris, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, B Bozikis, M Pontikes, L Konstantellos, P Giannopoulos, A Demeros

Absent: T Sikoral, T Karabatsos, C Agalliu, T Bournias

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with Fr. Dean leading us in prayer who was present for the duration of the meeting.

Correspondence: P Giannopoulos began with this evening's correspondence:

1. Thank you note from IOCC donation
2. Thank you note from OCMC donation
3. Thank you note from St. Andrews, \$500 donation for the Anagnostopoulos family. The little girl passed away.
4. Special Olympics asking for a donation for \$250, or \$395 or other. (Motion for \$100 checking for other donations)
Motion: for \$100 made by T Kanelos & 2nd by E Kiriazopoulos
Vote: 15-0-0
5. OCF asking for a donation.
Motion: for \$100 made by T Kanelos & 2nd by R Kozlowski
Vote: 15-0-0
6. OCMC also asking for a donation but we recently made one so we will pass on this one.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes were passed and read.

Motion: to approve the minutes as corrected made by A Koutsikos & 2nd by E Kiriazopoulos

Vote: 12-0-3

Treasurers Report: Financial report of April 2017, was reviewed and discussed highlighting any variances.

Motion: to use maintenance funds to pay for maintenances made by T Kanelos and 2nd by R Kozlowski

Vote: 14-0-2

Motion: to accept the April financials made by E Kiriazopoulos & 2nd by A Rizos

Vote: 16-0-0

Committee Reports

- 1. Food Fest:** Everything going as planned. Kitchen will be staffed by John Barron, Perry Giannopoulos, Tom Kanelos, and Ted Karabatsos and Sunday will be the girls. Early Bird raffle winners were Fr. George's parents who they won \$1000. Definitely sign up to help. The big expenses are security, tents. Different groups are responsible for obtaining donations, like chicken, gyros, produce and liquor. Suggestion for next year to possibly go to \$10,000 instead of going to the \$20,000 /car/Harley. Further research is needed before we make a donation. L Konstantellos stated there will be a table to sign up and be a match for Bone Marrow for Kosta.
- 2. Phase III:** Pappas assured Perry that he will be providing the numbers but has not heard anything yet. Perry was contacted by one of the largest donors which they are interested in doing some type of matching campaign. The goal at this time is to find out what these numbers will be and possibly getting a few donors that can take part in matching campaign and do something significant. We are very close.
(Dino Houpis report)
We will plan a General Assembly that will be meaningful in terms of being a vote and how we should proceed. At the same time, during the same General Assembly we will be discussing the 501C3 designation, there are certain clauses that need to be included in our bylaws. We need to update them into modern times. This was already passed out a few sessions ago.
- 3. Parish Software:** G Giolas stated that everything was transferred over to ECS. There was some additional training over the phone for getting more familiar with the program. The biggest issue is to getting the staff more familiar with the new system and reduce the work load.
- 4. Outreach Committee:** P Giannopoulos thanked everyone for helping at Bessie's table in May. 70 meals were served. Next upcoming meeting will be held on June 28th. R Kozlowski asked if any paper products will be needed possibly to-go containers. T Kanelos will ask the committee chairman if anything is needed and get back to us. They have also scheduled Meet My Starving children to be held in October.
- 5. School Board:** This is the wrap up of the 2016-2017 school year. Total enrollment was 247 students. The morning program had 46 students. The afternoon GS had 82 kids, and 119 in the Saturday GS. The enrollment was down a bit from the beginning of the year for difference reasons, but legitimate reasons. Tuition numbers: total income was \$315,000 and a little bit extra. The net difference between income and tuitions is about \$50,000. 99% collections is phenomenal from where they were a few years back. The numbers will get better and the hardships are part of their budget. Overall it's all very good. Anna Sikoral has done a great job in following up with collections. Olympia Bournias has asked for approval of the following replacements: For Pre-K, Konstantina Panagiotakis is replacing Marinela Paraskevopoulos. Level 3: Rania Grivas is replacing Verda Zaimia and for Saturday Dance: Alexandra Kastanes is replacing Izakis Metropoulos. **Motion:** to approve these replacements, made by M Pontikes & 2nd by A Koutsikos. **Vote:** 12-0-4
- 6. Building & Grounds:** M Pontikes stated the church doors to be refinished was too pricey and possibly need a new recommendation. Should we change the lights to possibly go to LED lightning to save some money? LED will save you some but not much. Possibly looking to change the bulbs – chandelier; we need to look into changing the parking lot lights, the outside lights and possibly the indoor lighting.

Railings need to be fastened in the upstairs corridor.

A Demeros will investigate on new doors for the church.

Fr Dean suggested if we could have someone on church grounds for security purposes with what's going on in the world nowadays. Possibly have a meeting with police officers from this parish and discuss security.

7. **Stewardship:** Nothing to report
8. **Golf Outing:** R Kozlowski stated that we currently have three foursomes, some sponsorship and \$5100 committed. A Demeros stated there's a mailing that will need to go out, possibly do a email blast and pass it on via word of mouth. Possibly add some posters out there.
9. **Insurance:** P Giannopoulos and N Gianaris will discuss more about this on our next meeting which will include commercial liability, liquor insurance and auto insurance, it will be a full package. It will be through Hartford & Berkshire.
10. **Nick Harisiadis Retiring:** P Giannopoulos stated the Nick is requesting to find a way to alter his pay structure. The church pays him in three different ways. He draws a regular salary for the current year \$22,380. He also gets an auto allowance of \$2640; He gets Christmas and Easter bonuses at \$540 so the total is about \$25,560. Plus he gets about \$100 per extra service beyond church services. In 2016 it was another \$3900. So in total his salary was closer to \$29,000. He requested that payment for his chanting services be paid to a corporation of which he is a principal, making him an independent contractor. **Motion:** to approve an expenditure of \$25,020 for chanting services plus \$100 per services made by G Giolas and 2nd by A Demeros.
Vote: 10-1-5

For the Good of the Parish:

1. Opens Items: R Kozlowski stated that if we can keep any open items should listed at the bottom section of the minutes.
2. St. Nicholas Shrine: K Ioannou and I (K Apithis) have been working on this project as a fundraiser for the food fest; we have some printed documentation to display possibly on a poster and a donation box to be displaced as well. Parish council members agreed to display the donation box with the printed material by the front gate entrance.
3. October Fest: N Gianaris suggested to have an October Fest possibly over a weekend to raise money for our parish. Possibly a simple menu, with a beer tent and a cover band. Chairpersons: N Gianaris, L Konstantellos, T Kanelos and P Giannopoulos.
4. Sports Tickets: A Koutsikos mentioned that she has a new contact for sports tickets for either the tailgate party, the golf outing or the smokers dinner.
5. By Laws: D Houpis asked as to when the Bylaws will be updated. T Kanelos and P Giannopoulos will be going over those bylaws soon.

Priest Remarks: Fr Dean would like us to keep in mind that on Saturday, September 30th the Pan Orthodox Celebration will take place in Chicago. It will be held at Lane Tech High School followed by a banquet at the Marriot O'Hare. It's a momentous occasion and we need to support it. Possibly have a bus so older parishioners can attend as a parish outing.

Fr Dean also stated on how children behave towards adults especially towards clergy. They don't know how to address a priest. How do we address it? Should we have some informational material that we can discuss with parents and kids?

** The Metropolitan's Trisagion and memorial service will be held on July 9th.

Motion to adjourn: A Rizos and 2nd by E Kiriazopoulos – vote was unanimous. Meeting ended at 10:33pm.

Open Items:

1. Church Doors
2. Church security
3. Parish By Laws
4. Parish council members are still not stewards of the church.