

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church-Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Minutes for November 15, 2017

Commencement of Meeting:

The Parish Council meeting began at 7:40 p.m. with Father Dean leading us in prayer and 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 assistant recording secretary recorded the matters addressed.

Parish Council Members in Attendance:

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

Absent: N Gianaris, K Apithis, C Agalliu, T Sikoral.

President's Remarks: Members in attendance were greeted by President Giannopoulos, who advised that tonight's agenda will involve preparing a budget for 2018; once approved the budget will be presented to the parish in the upcoming General Assembly.

Minutes: September, 2017 minutes were not available. The minutes from the October 18, 2017 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Discussion and corrections were identified and made.

Motion: made by R Kozlowski/ 2nd E Kiriazopoulos to approve the 10-18-17 minutes as corrected. **Vote: 10-0-4**

Correspondence:

- 1) Thank you acknowledgement for donation of \$250.00 to Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival.
- 2) Thank you acknowledgement from OCCA for donation of \$1,000.00 to the Pan-Orthodox 125th Anniversary Celebration.
- 3) Thank you acknowledgement from IOCC for the proceeds from the special tray in response to Hurricane Irma in the amount of \$1,214.00 and special tray in response to Hurricane Harvey in the amount of \$1,435.00.
- 4) Letter from the Archdiocese that our 2018 commitment will remain the same as assessed in 2017.

Treasurer's Report: Financial report for September 2017 was reviewed with certain line items discussed. **Motion:** made by T Karabatsos/2nd E Kiriazopoulos to accept the 9-30-17 financial report. **Vote: 12-0-2**

It was noted that at the last General Assembly George Anastasiadis recommended that a portion of the gross earnings from the Food Fest be reallocated from the operating budget for some special project. This will be discussed at the next General Assembly.

Committee Reports:

a) Outreach: John Pierce presented an overall summary of current activities; the allowed budget for the Outreach committee is not underfunded as many of the actual members/volunteers tend to assume the costs attributable to the project or event undertaken; Thanksgiving Lunch will take

place next week (our 3rd year); Bessie's Table: a chairperson is needed to coordinate volunteers, and there will be an announcement in the Sunday bulletins for this; Meals on Wheels is a successful program-since its inception 4 individuals have passed but it's satisfying to know that St. Haralambos was a source of assistance in their final months; the Coat Drive will again take place this year.

b) **Budget Review:** Line items discussed in particular was Revenue/Stewardship with a decrease of \$5,000.00 from 2017 as the \$5,000.00 will be allocated to expenses for the Stewardship Committee line item as it does not currently have an allocated budget; also noted in Revenue/Schools line item to reflect changes as presented by the School board report on 10-18-17; also discussion had that a new line item should be included for "Fall Festival" with a proposed amount of \$15,000.00; thus the total revenue for 2018's budget proposed is \$791,846.00.

Line items discussed for expenses included: new insurance contract was executed with a noted decrease of \$5,000.00; postage expense was reduced by \$4,000.00 taking into account electronic method of disseminating information; line item Inreach/Outreach was increased by \$5,000.00 to afford a budget to the Inreach Committee for this year.

Motion: made by T. Kanelos/2nd T Karabatsos to proceed with further budget discussions in an executive session **Vote: 13-0-1**

Executive session held

Motion: made by T Kanelos/2nd R Kozlowski to end executive session **Vote: 16-0-0**

Motion: made by T Bournias/2nd D Houpis to accept budget as amended **Vote: 11-3-2**

c) **Phase III:** there was a meeting with Pappas on 11-14-17 who has outlined what work they will perform (underground –excavation-concrete) and the significant savings that will be realized. At this point the G.C. candidates (3) have provided bids (excluding the work Pappas will do) so meeting can be scheduled to determine who will be the G.C.

At the present, Phase III pledges total @ 2.4 million dollars with a project cost totaling 5 million dollars(+). That poses an obstacle in proceeding with construction in that a financial institution will be hard pressed to underwrite a loan for the project arrears costs. Thus have to ask do we proceed with Phase III as originally planned, presented and approved by the General Assembly in fall, 2015? Do we look at other options such as scale down what was originally approved by the GA, do we proceed with construction in two phases and complete what we can with the revenue we have and then continue on as the funds become available? It was felt that there is some sense of urgency that we need to move ahead with this project.

L Konstantellos provided a hand-out outlining Phase 3 loan considerations with 3 possible scenarios as to term of loans and monthly mortgage payments dependent on the loan amount approved. It was noted in discussion that the most current appraisal of the property/existing buildings is 6 million dollars. It was further discussed that a General Assembly will be announced and held in early 2018 to have the parish consider construction options and present how the construction can move forward.

d) **Men's Event:** A Demeros presented a summary-it will be held on 11-22-17; a flat screen smart TV was donated and will be raffled off /tickets at \$25.00. A credit card machine will be needed to transact that evening.

e) **2018 Dinner Dance:** The chair people from the 2017 event have once again accepted to chair the event again-save the date of 2-11-18; once again it will be a luncheon after Church and it will be held at the same venue.

f) **2017 Stewardship:** As of 11-15-17 there are 40 less families that have made a stewardship pledge and there is an approximate \$26,000.00 reduction in pledges compared to this time in 2016.

g) **2018 Stewardship campaign:** G Giolas provided a summary: upcoming meeting on 11-17-17; we will be implementing "Vanco" system soon and question who needs to be trained other than office staff, clergy and treasurer; the stewardship 2018 pledge cards are ready to be sent out; the focus of the committee is how to get stewardship pledges up so that the Church can continue in its ministries as well as expand on this goal. One suggestion is to place a diagram/board in the community center to track the pledges.

h) Building and Grounds:

The exterior Church doors have been completed for a total cost of \$2,037.00. Will need to allow in the budget for maintenance of same every 1-2 years;

Parking lot striping-will need to do cold patching and then striping;

D Houpis advised that the mold testing that was performed in the last month came back reporting that all findings were negative/no mold;

Discussion as to remodeling both men's and women's bathrooms at an approximate cost of \$25,000.00 -R Kozlowski and G Giolas are coordinating efforts to get this done and will report on further progress in December meeting;

G Giolas raised concern as to the workmanship of the work done in the corner class room that had some wall /paint improvements-the west wall has to be repainted. Question came up as to when there is a project that is undertaken after P.C. approves the undertaking and charges related to same, who is responsible to check on the progression of the work and the end result. The consensus was that the person who schedules labor to do things at the Church should bear the responsibility to monitor the work performed and see the work concluded.

G Giolas reported that the Com Ed LED lighting assessment/audit was completed-there is a \$6,000 incentive which requires that the labor is done by a partner vendor; the incentive also is in the 5 year payback for the monies spent to convert and replace the bulbs and ballast and there would be an approximate \$13,000 annual savings in electric bill.

For the Good of the Parish:

Budget General Assembly is to take place 12/3/17 or in the alternative on 12/10/17;

Each P.C. member should come to the December meeting having completed their report(s) for each of the assigned ministries;

G Giolas requested that the Sunday school kids who come for Communion be held back from entering the Church until the sermon is over;

D Houpis advised that on 11-20-17 he was in the classroom area and noticed a young man (apprx. 16 year old) sleeping in classroom #7 ; came to find out that it was one of Juan's sons and he is very concerned given that there is an unauthorized person in an area where kids are present. Father Dean advised that he would discuss the matter with Juan as this is unacceptable.

Priest's Remarks:

There are 11 members whose 2 year term on P.C. will end. Father Dean thanked all who serve as P.C. members for their commitment and efforts and encouraged those whose terms are ending to consider running again for P.C.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn at 11:30 p.m.

1st A Rizos/ 2nd T Kanelos

Vote: Unanimous **Passed**

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) Report on rehab of bathrooms

Respectfully submitted,

Argy Koutsikos,
Parish Council Secretary