

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church-Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Minutes for December 20th, 2017

Commencement of Meeting: The meeting began with Father Dean leading prayer at 7:45pm. Vice-President Nick Andrews served as chairman of the meeting, and Argy Koutsikos served as secretary.

Parish Council Members in Attendance: N Andrews, D Loomos, T Karabatsos, G Giolas, L Konstantellos, K Ioannou, A Rizos, R Kozlowski, D Houpis, T Bournias, E Kiriazopoulos, C Agalliu, B Bozikis, A. Koutsikos, T. Sikoral, T. Kanelos.

Absent: P. Giannopoulos, A. Demeros, K. Apithis, N. Gianaris, M. Pontikes.

Minutes: November 2017 minutes were reviewed. Discussions: D Houpis: rewording of Motion to accept as corrected 1st G Giolas, 2nd T Bournias. Unanimous

Correspondence:

1. Cross Roads: Summer program for high schoolers run out of the seminary. This summer it will also be in Chicago. Motion for \$100 donation: D Loomos, 2nd: G Giolas Vote: 12-1-0
2. American Red Cross-Thank you for our edonation
3. Syrian American Medical Association request for donation. Motion D Houpis to give \$100, 2nd K Ioannou Vote: 9-3-0
4. National Hellenic Museum request for donation. T Bournias moves to donate \$250/ 2nd D Houpis Vote: 7-6-0
5. Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries \$100 donation T Bournias/ A Rizos Vote: 12-1-0
6. OCN Motion to donate \$100 by T Kanelos, 2nd R Kozlowski Vote: Unanimous yes

School Board- Olympia Bournias reported that the Board met to discuss next year's tuition. Morning School: M-F \$3600 remaining. MWF: Increase tuition by \$100 to \$2400. Enrichment program will increase by \$100.

Afternoon /Saturday school \$870 increasing tuition. The increases in tuition are covering the salary increases. 70% of tuitions have been collected at this point.

New motion: Our own clergy be able to send children to any of the three schools *gratis* -- our priests/presbytera's do so much and are such an integral part of the school: they want to put it in their books.

Clergy from other parishes are performing service for their church, Priests from other churches that don't have schools are getting a 20% discount for their children enrolled.

D Houpis: Recommends to have schools free and accept donations only. Discussion followed. It was felt that having free school is good idea/goal but not at this time.

Motion to accept School Board's recommendation by E Kiriazopoulos /2nd D Loomos Vote: 13-0-1

Treasurer's Report: D Loomos reported October and November financials. D Loomos transferred funds, Operating account: \$261,805 to Phase III. Roof & Maintenance account. Garage money came in from insurance, we paid it initially from the Dome account, \$26,070.

Further discussion about account amounts. Motion to approve October: A Rizos/ 2nd R Kozlowski. Vote 15-0-0

November Report: November is up to date from the last day of November. Motion to accept the November report G Giolas/ 2nd E Kiriazopoulos 13-0-2.

Discussion: Oktoberfest QuickReport, breakdown of the different checks written for the event. Total costs: \$51,609.12 creating a loss of approximately \$35,000.

Anniversary Luncheon Celebration - will be held on 2-11-18. Ad book sponsorship contracts sent to printer and will be sent in the immediate future.

Phase III: noted that the parish website information should be updated. The cost proposals from two contractors were received -highlighting the parts of the credits that are to be backed out as they were insufficient; comparisons of spreadsheets between the 2 general contractors.

Discussion was had with D Houpis questioning the specifics of Phase III expansion, in particular the basement and elevator renderings for the addition - these Phase III specifics and changes to same as the subject was presented to a General Assembly that voted to proceed with the expansion inclusive of these elements and it was explained that the P.C. meeting was not the forum to invoke a change in plans and designs that were previously approved by the General Assembly. T Kanelos/ Fr Dean stated that discussions specific to Phase III should be discussed at Phase III Committee meeting.

Outreach Committee: : J Pierce as chairman of the committee - this year was the 3rd year to host Thanksgiving lunch in the community center and served approximately 65 guests; St Haralambos has signed up for another year to cook and serve the needy at Bessie's table in Des Plaines; the Andrews family has volunteered to host some of the upcoming months at Bessie's Table.

Stewardship: This time in 2016 682 families pledged \$348,500.00 (average @ \$511.00) in comparison to December, 2017 where 642 families have pledged \$325,238.00 (average @ \$506.00); there is an approximate 23k decrease in stewardship pledges from 2016 to 2017.

Discussion--D Houpis stressed that stewardship involves not only monetary pledges but also time and effort devoted to the Church.

G Giolas advised that the 2018 stewardship campaign has focused on increasing stewardship support and commitments by making the campaign focus on a monthly donation pledge; a stewardship donation goal board will go up in the Community Center; Vanco program will be implemented by the new year which will allow stewards to make pledges on line.

e) Building & Grounds: On 12-26-17 the remodeling of the women's and men's bathrooms will start- the changes will be all inclusive from the flooring to walls and ceiling tiles- bathroom partitions. Discussed advantages of paying for the bathroom remodeling before 12-31-17.

Motion: To approve an amount not to exceed \$26,000.00 to remodel the women's/men's bathrooms made by A Koutsikos/ 2nd C Agalliu **Vote: unanimous**

Also classroom #7 was repainted as was the caulking of the outside parameters around the windows.

Iconography: Iconography was a topic raised in the last General Assembly and it was by general consensus that we proceed with completing the iconography over the dome, proportionately to the money raised for its completion. There has been a pledge of \$10,000.00 x5 years for a total of \$50,000.00; an anonymous donor has pledged \$50,000.00 (\$10,000.00 already donated); T Bournias pledge a \$10,000.00 donation; D Houpis pledged a \$10,000.00 donation and D Houpis also advised that a \$25,000.00 pledge is made by Mr. Dimopoulos. Thus total donations for iconography is now at \$145,000.00. **Motion:** To constitute a committee particular for the iconography vault project made by D Houpis/ 2nd G Giolas **Vote: 15-0-0**
The Committee can be appointed after a new president is elected.

D Houpis, has by laws. Parish Council establishes appropriate committees.

For the Good of the Parish:

2) L Konstantellos presented a handout of options/proposal for Phase III banking; discussion as to what existing accounts have in rates and to what amount those accounts are protected under FDIC limits. Options of four different banking institutions were discussed. **Motion:** To authorize the treasurer to open an account at BMO with initial deposit of minimum \$25,000.00 by 12-29-17 made by T Kanelos/ 2nd L Konstantellos **Vote: unanimous**

Motion: For the treasurer and any other helpful and versed person to negotiate better terms and/or open up new accounts for all parish fund accounts that would be most advantageous to the parish made by T Kanelos/ 2nd R Kozlowski **Vote: unanimous**

Insurance: Koz: Insurance. The classifications of the various items that have variable coverage. Iconography. For the next meeting: appoint committee to oversee property insurance. Fixed assets, what will the property get in an open market. There is an appraisal for the building: \$6million. Interior assets. We can have an assessment when we apply for the loan for the new building. Argy: Letter to the Archdiocese. T Kanelos: Write a letter, specifically not to hold the money in escrow. Fr Dean, the archdiocese says that they are trying to fix the issues. We should continue to pay them. Discussion of writing a letter. Waiting for the result of the audit comes in before deciding to write a letter to the Archdiocese.

Discussion: What P.C. should do to voice the concerns of the parish, as raised at the last General Assembly, as to the current financial status of the Archdiocese. P.C. determined that it would be prudent to wait until the Archdiocese publishes its audit in March, 2018 to determine if a letter on behalf of the parish needs to be authored and sent.

Father Dean informed P.C. members who were not available about a special discussion, concerning an e-mail sent to Father Dean from a parishioner who had concerns that the P.C. was not in tune and not listening to the community at large. One of the take-aways from that e-mail is the need to be more transparent in all activities undertaken by P.C.

D Houpis stressed that the P.C. minutes be made available to all -they are now updated and posted on the website- going forward suggested that it should be the responsibility of the recording secretary to make corrections of the minutes as discussed during the meetings and

then submit the corrected minutes to the office staff in order for them to be posted on the website.

Priest Remarks: Father Dean expressed that going forward the P.C. concern about the handling of day to day business of the Church should not overshadow what we should be most focused on and concerned with- --that being our first priority should be worship, faith and tradition - -- we should be concerned about how we talk to others and conduct ourselves as Christians.

Father George also addressed P.C. and noted that this past year P.C. has progressed and in making improvements we seem to be on track with a common goals of the parish. It requires discipline on our end and a good way to start 2018 is to take a structured approach on what projects we undertake and follow through in a methodical way.

Father Dean thanked all P.C. members for their commitment and wished all a Merry Christmas.

D Houpis was thanked for his work on P.C. over the past 2 years as he chose not to run again for 2018-2019.

Motion to adjourn by A Rizos/ 2nd T Kanelos. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted ,

Argy Koutsikos, Acting 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) September, 2017 Parish Council meeting minutes
- 5) Report on rehab of bathrooms
- 6) Report of opening up of new bank account(s)
- 7) Vanco software update /stewardship pledge form and means to pledge on line
- 8) Iconography committee chair people to be appointed.