

Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Niles, Illinois
Parish Council Meeting for Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Parish Council Members in Attendance:

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

Absent: N Gianaris

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:10 p.m. with Father Dean leading us in prayer who was present for the duration of the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of March 15 were read and discussed.

Motion: to accept the minutes as corrected made by E Kiriazopoulos & 2nd by T Kanelos.

Vote: 9-0-4

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's Report: Financial report of January 2017, was reviewed and discussed highlighting any variances. First page is usual. Transferred operating account to Phase III.

Motion: To accept the January Financial report made by E Kiriazopoulos & 2nd by T Kanelos

Vote: 15-0-0

Committee Reports:

- A. Building & Grounds: Ted Karabatsos stated they changed the windows, but also wanted to change some windows in the Community center; There's a leak under a door. Twelve windows were changed, all work was completed, just needed to paint. All within budget, however there are more projects that are to be used for. \$4500 on windows, \$16,800 on tuck-pointing are complete. Total approved budget was \$35,000. Discussion of trimming bushes. Discussed the window-wall of the community center. We have a few pails of the white paint that could be used to paint the community center white walls. Larry brought up a question: We had a serious AC issue on Good Friday, it was very hot with no air, lots of people and lots of candles. Luckily no one passed out! Where are the plans with the AC units? Our AC units are old. The units are set up to only turn on once the outside temperature is above 60 degrees. Koz stated that it's in the works to get new ACs. Within the next week we should have a proposal about new AC units. Garage will be built for \$4000 with a steeper roof for additional storage and it will be built on top of the concrete that's already out there which will only require a permit meant for replacing a shed.

- B. Bright Friday Dinner: We are still doing the Bright Friday event that we've done in the past on Friday, April 21st. Eleni Kiriazopoulos stated the food will be family style. Asking for help. Perry volunteered.
- C. Lamb Roast: May 20th or June 10th are the dates we are considering since we can't have it on Saturday, April 22nd which falls on St. George vespers services.
- D. Rib Fest: Larry & Tom K will lead this event and find a date in September.
- E. Food Fest: No significant updates to report, planning some additional things, but raffle tickets have been printed and will be ready to be sent out.
- F. Phase III: Should have a bid with Pappas. Z3 put a bid. Pappas will be the 4th bid.
- G. Stewardship: Fr Dean stated that we have 391 families that have pledged \$220,447. At this point, last year we had 420 families that had pledged \$231,000. Average stewardship is up. \$550 at this point last year, now it's \$569.
- H. Youth Programs: Fr George asked for Parish donation to offset cost for kids who will be going on a trip to Detroit. This is going to be an Outreach Project in the inner city of Detroit. They will be working with one of the schools in the inner city and will also be working with the Focus North America, an Orthodox Christian organization, they have several locations within the United States, this one will eventually be made into an Orthodox Christian homeless shelter. The GOYAnS are going to be painting, moving furniture organizing clothes and more things like that. There are 25 students from our parish. Would Parish Council be able to donate to overall cost to help. Donation to the cause too, all of it is \$400 per person.
Motion: to donate \$1600 for GOYA trip to Detroit made by A Demeros /2nd by T Sikoral
Vote: 16-0-0
- I. Software Website: G Giolas stated that software is installed, just waiting for training sessions. Talk to Effie Marie, trying to schedule a one-on-one training session here in Chicago. Fr George stated there were two sessions, that were two-hour training sessions, also planning to have regular sessions, and we know there are online training sessions as well. The hope is to utilize the software by midsummer. We want to get all the training sessions completed to gauge level of comfort and then make a final decision. Fr George also stated that George Houpis is working on our parish website. It will be mobile friendly. He also stated that he sent a letter out to all the ministries asking for information for each of the ministries they represent and return to Elizabeth Kotis.

Strategic Planning Session -- Lead by Tom Sikoral began at 8:00 pm

Define our direction and make sure our resources are utilized to meet the goals. Today we will focus on vision and mission. Mission, what is our purpose, vision is how do we get there. Words for the Mission Statement: Living expression of Christ, welcoming, dynamic, growth, cultivate, faith and traditions, teachings of Christ etc. He will compile some thoughts/ideas for a Mission statement. Ideally we will have a parish council member overseeing a ministry to make sure mission/goals are being met.

Priest Remarks Fr. Dean thanked the parish council members for their involvement as Holy Week was glorious. Holy Week went smoothly. Trays and candles brought in \$34,000 per D Loomos.

Motion to adjourn made by K Apithis / 2nd A Rizos
Closing Prayer lead by Fr Dean and Fr George.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Apithis,
Parish Council Secretary