

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17 2018**

Commencement of Meeting

The Parish Council Meeting began under Chairmanship of Father Dean, leading prayer at 7:40pm.

Attendance: C Agalliu, N Andrews, T Bournias, W Bozikis, A Demeros, N Gianaris, P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, G Houpis, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, T Karabatsos, E Kiriazopoulos, L Konstantellos, R Kozlowski, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, J Pierce, M Pontikes, A Rizos

Absent: T Sikoral

Election of Officers

Three members of the Parish Council remained to take the Affirmation of Office oath. Meeting to elect Board Officers after last Sunday's service was delayed because of Vasilopita luncheon.

Election for Parish Council Board Officers:

President Nominations: Richard Kozlowski was nominated by Tom Bournias for president. R Kozlowski accepted nomination. Larry Konstantellos nominated George Giolas/Accepted. Ballot Vote: R Kozlowski Elected as President of Parish Council.

Vice President Nominations: Nick Andrews was nominated by Argy Koutsikos, N Andrews accepted nomination. L Konstantellos nominated G Giolas, G Giolas accepted nomination.

Motion: To have two vice presidents as elected board officers as allowed by the bylaws
1st C Agalliu / 2nd T Kanelos **Vote:** 17-1-0 Pass

Vice President: Nick Andrews and 2nd Vice President: George Giolas elected Parish Council Officers VPs

Treasurer Nominations: G Giolas nominated L Konstantellos for treasurer/accepted. Tom Kanelos nominated David Loomos/Accepted.

Ballot Vote: D Loomos elected Treasurer of Parish Council

Secretary Nominations: Anthony Rizos Nominated George Houpis/Declined.

Larry Konstantellos nominated Krystal Ioannou/Accepted. No other nominations, K Ioannou elected Secretary of Parish Council

Assistant Treasurer Nominations: D Loomos nominated W Bozikis/Accepted. T Kanelos nominated A Rizos 2nd Assistant Treasurer/Accepted

Assistant Secretary Nominations: T Kanelos nominated A Koutsikos/Accepted & elected

New President's Remarks: R Kozlowski gave thanks to members for being involved. There will be focus on collaboration -- to work together for the good of the community. There are many challenges moving forward. We have to increase our transparency with Parish functions. R.K. would like members to become more involved with people you don't know, get what other people's thoughts are so that we can bring it back to the council. Have to use all avenues to inform the parish of various events: bake sales, basketball, Olympics, etc. Inform parishioners and friends of the parish in advance.

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Minutes and Correspondence

Motion to approve December 20, 2017 minutes as corrected, 1st E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd N Andrews **Vote:** 13-0-5 Pass

R Kozlowski ~~readled discussion regarding~~ correspondence:

Thank you letter for donation IOCC donation we made in December.

Thank you letter for donation to Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries.

Thank you letter for donation to National Hellenic Museum.

Thank you letter for donation to St Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

Request for Martha and Mary Maternity House donations.

~~No past donations per D Loomes.~~ One time gift for \$100 monthly or put in an amount. Fr

George is on the board. There was a new infant born into the home recently.

Motion: To approve a one time \$250 donation to Martha and Mary Maternity House, 1st: T Kanelos /2nd A Koutsikos. **Vote:** 16-1-1 Pass

Motion: To table Treasurer's report 1st: T Kanelos / 2nd B Bouzikis **Vote:** 13-3-2 Pass

Anniversary 67 Annual Banquet Discussion led by P Giannopoulos: Invites went out over the weekend to all the stewards and additional guests list. Allgauers at Northbrook Hilton. Should be able to start at 12:30. Adbook: Half page ad is \$250. Full page ad is \$500. Silent auction: Certain items, not as many baskets. There will be some tickets to games available. Contact Perry or Rubine if anyone has tickets to any games. Auctioning the Parking spot at Church. 50/50 Raffle. Parish Council will have a full page ad in the banquet Adbook.

Phase III Discussion led by P Giannopoulos: Some drawings have to be finalized. Then approval for foundation from the Village to obtain the permit... which will be another 3-4 weeks. R Kozlowski: Provide a more recent drawing for council members. Scale back on the finished items. J Pierce question: Can we start with the significant part of the project now with the money we have raised? R Kozlowski: Some comments from community -- What are we including in the gym building after scaling. There is a need for forums where parish members can provide input. Discussion at length regarding communication. G Giolas will start Phase III communication committee. J Pierce: Would like to create more dialogue between parishioners and Phase III Committee. Giannopoulos: There were 4 or 5 different layouts that were presented, and many different avenues / layouts were discussed and decided on. Construction has been postponed longer than anticipated, however at a **cost savings** for the overall project.

Outreach Committee Discussion led by John Pierce. Meals on Wheels (J Pierce is coordinating): Has been unable to find anyone else to coordinate Meals on Wheels. Always able to find people to help to cook. It's difficult to find volunteers to deliver. Bessie's Table on Monday at First United Methodist Church of Des Plaines on Jan 22nd.

Building and Grounds Led by T Karabatsos: New bathrooms. Very well done with costs written off (\$15,000) by contractor. Total cost was \$40,000 and the actual cost was \$25,000. Cry room is cold/drafty and bathroom seems to be sinking. The contractor will be redoing Fr Dean's Bathroom and will be taking a look at the cry room bathroom probably at the end of February when there are no baptisms. Also short discussion about audio in the cry room: Louder with Chanter than with Priest. May be dependent on set volumes and also how close to microphone speaker/chanter is. Back to the cry room: Should we purchase the same tiles for cry room before lots run out? P Giannopoulos: Find out how many tiles we would need first.

2017 Stewardship Year End Report led by Fr. Dean: At this time in 2017, we had ~~106406~~ steward families with a total commitment amount of \$65,4720. So far in 2018, we have 144 steward families with a total commitment amount of \$118,150. \$820.49 per family in 2018 vs \$617.66 per family last year in 2017. We are off to a better start. Stewardship form has not been added online yet, G Houpis is aware and will add on hopefully by this weekend.

Vanco piece Led by G Giolas: Live accounts. 5 subjects that people, 3 schools Phase III and Stewardship. Training staff in office. E-giving button to be added. Account is live: Test deposits completed (by G Giolas / D Loomos). There will be one more training with how to download the dollars to the PDS system. Do we want to add Iconography or different subjects for people to donate to. Preset donation amounts, and also you can choose which amounts. There is also a recurring box. There is also an option for the donor to offset the fees. Other open item from last meeting: proposal to establish Iconography Committee. C Demopoulos, T Bournias, D Houpis, Stephan Aliferakis. R Kozlowski: You can choose a chairman amongst yourselves. Q: T Kanelos: Did we open any new bank account? D Loomos: Yes, we opened a \$25,000 account. Perry: C Balabanos financing regarding to Phase III and we may need to open an account with them. L Konstantellos: BMO we have APY interest of 1.15%. Q: J Pierce: Line of credit? Perry: We haven't used it in a few years, we have about \$375,000. We shouldn't take all of our money out of 5/3rd bank until we have a better idea of what we are doing with money on a more global picture. L Konstantellos: Moving approximately \$600,000 to BMO Harris account? \$600 interest per month.

Motion: L Konstantellos / 2nd G Giolas: To move funds in all Phase III accounts at 5/3rd Bank (0% interest) to a BMO Harris Account to earn (~1.15%) interest.

Discussion: FDIC insured \$250,000 per tax ID. N Gianaris and W Bozikis asked about FDIC insurance. J Pierce: Why only BMO, why not look at other options in addition (Charles Schwab) in order to obtain \$250,000 FDIC insurance on each of several accounts. L Konstantellos: We can look at that but we don't have a date yet, which inhibits the possibility of looking at CDs. D Loomos: We can continue with the BMO account in the short term and look at other options in the future. We can meet as a committee, do homework and look at other options so that our money stays insured.

Vote: 15-1-1 Pass

For the Good of the Parish

L Konstantellos: Detailed services of Mr Balabanos, has a process that doesn't support direct deposit, we can offer as a church. 2016 professional fees were \$600. D Loomos: He will check to see what he pays. Larry said he saw professional annual services in budget was \$2400 (D

Loomos) Can we hire a company like ADP to do direct deposits, Koz address via subcommittee (L Konstantellos & D Loomos).

T Kanelos: All restricted constructions funds in separate accounts with separate account numbers? Yes per D Loomos. T Kanelos: Look at the bylaws, for all Parish Council members to sign off on a loan if we take on the loan. T Kanelos will look into modifying this part of the bylaw. Larry and Perry will also help....Perry wants to modify so that we can be a 501(c)3 organization.

Fund Raisers During 2018

2018 Greek Food Fest -- Perry and Koz will discuss.

Fr Dean: Lamb Roast? Perry: It was a fun event. Scheduling issues last year, Bright Saturday for this year? April 15th?

T Kanelos: We lost Frank Bexes, may we remember him with great love and respect.

G Houpis: Parish email, to use parish domain email, also for the office itself so there is traceability and accountability to have communications. Website: Every 1st meeting of every year. L

Konstantellos: Q: If we reply as an individual, will we have the option to reply to a specific person with the @saintharalambosgoc.org email account and also the full Parish Council Domain created? G Houpis: Yes.

L Konstantellos: Weekly emails are a fantastic idea: Timing of information getting out is vital. Solution: Get information on Thursday: Weekly bulletin and email information to send out by Thursday evening.

Fr Dean: In-reach committee working on photo directory by creating an album. TBD tentative photo dates. February is coming, feast day of the church and also the liturgical celebrations: 2/7 Paraklisis, 2/8 Tsiknopempti (\$25), 2/9 Vespers for St Haralambos, 2/10 Feast Day Luncheon, 2/11 67th Annual Luncheon, 2/10 PTA Apokreiatiko cancelled. We need help ushering, and also to come eat, Feb 7th, evening, Tsiknopempti dinner \$25 donation. PTA is not doing an Apokreiatiko this year, too much going on around this time.

Open Items:

- 1) School programs to be assessed by professional team of educators.
- 2) Basketball hoop for youth
- 3) PC going as a group to St. Iakovos Retreat Center

Motion to Adjourn: P Giannopoulos / 2nd A Koutsikos **Vote:** Unanimous.
Closing prayers 10:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

-by-Krystal Ioannou,
~~St Haralambos~~ Parish Council Secretary