

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2020**

Commencement of Meeting: Meeting began via Zoom Video conference call at 7:38pm. Opening prayers led by Fr Dean; Fr George is also present.

Attendance: W Bozikis, T Bournias, A Demeros, G Giolas, N Gianaris, P Giannopoulos, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, T Karabatsos, E Kiriazopoulos, L Konstantellos, A Koutsikos, R Kozlowski, D Loomos, N Megremis, M Pontikes, A Rizos, T Sikoral, T Zavos

Absent: N Andrews, C Agalliu

Fr Dean Announcement:

Charles Condes was a very modest, older man who never drew attention to himself. He was a brilliant engineer. He passed away about four years ago. Over the years, the family announced that they would be providing a donation for the church. Recently, the donation came through and it is a much larger donation than anticipated (\$1.728 million).

Question: How will we communicate this to the church?

Answer: It is better to do it sooner rather than later. We can draft a letter to go out to the parish. We can discuss in the letter that with the donation, we will not need to take out the loan on the building. A portion of the donation will go towards Phase III and Iconography, but the other portion will be used for Youth Services and future needs of the church.

Question: Will we be able to finish the entire project without additional funds? Answer: This will cover the building only, not the remodeling of the community center and the completion of other details of the original \$6 million plan; we would probably need an additional \$1.5 million for finalizing.

Discussion: We can use this as an opportunity to take the funds to create a long term endowments. For example, we can have endowment funds for youth programs, or rainy day reserves, or other future initiatives of the church.

Plan:

- 1) Make announcement for Sunday
- 2) The announcement with one uniform voice from the Church leaders
- 3) We can also send a video out, and communicate the message with various methods as different people go through different avenues to receive their communication
- 4) There will be about \$4 million downfall across the 58 parishes of the Metropolis of Chicago from losses due to Easter, Food Fests etc. Need to decide how much to donate to Metropolis Relief Fund

Goal: For the Metropolis to raise \$1 million.

Discussion: the donation should be 1%, but it may not be actually 1% of what's available, may actually be a greater percentage of what is available (Proposed \$1.2 million saved for the new building)

Perry: The SBA loan approval will start tomorrow. 5/3rd is able to approve the loans internally without going through the SBA. We do have everything we need for the application; completed the form, have all the payroll documents. T Sikoral provided the calculation, Koz provided the addendum

T Zavos will pen a letter that they will continue for the remainder of the school year and they will continue to advise to make tuition payments to pay the teachers. Bullet points from attachment Tom sent to the Parish Council in advance include:

- 1) All School Classrooms (morning, afternoon, Saturday) were closed on March 14th.
- 2) Classes Resumed via remote learning (eLearning)
- 3) Zoom introduced last week to conduct portions of the classroom sessions remotely
- 4) eLearning appears to be an effective replacement

School Operating Budget Summary:

- 1) School operating budget remains favorable even during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2) Tuitions/fee collected to date: \$386,000 (87%), with \$23,000 collected last week
- 3) Estimated Expenses for all three school years for the entire year is \$373,000
- 4) School Rent to Church: \$58,000, with \$13,000 already paid from net profits
- 5) School year may be cancelled even though budget will cover April through June salaries

Please look at the bullet point at the last page - we can't use the money from the tuition for the funding of other church operations. Moving forward, the school to have segregated account
D Loomos: Proceeded with current cash balance report including any outstanding checks and incoming cash flows. We still need to make the monthly Archdiocese payment. We need to have a motion to reverse the prior motion from last week's meeting.

Motion: We rescind the motion of last week's meeting that we furlough the non-essential employees if we do not receive the SBA loan by April 16th. T Bournias / 2nd T Zavos

Vote: 18-0-0 Pass Unanimous

Motion: To table the prior meeting minutes until the next meeting W Bozikis / 2nd G Giolas

Vote Pass Unanimous

G Giolas: Plans for the short term have changed but the plans for the long term will have to be changed in the future to make the church better operationally and more secure financially. Refer to the list provided in his email that he sent out. Perhaps we can include job descriptions for office and janitorial employees. A Koutsikos will assist to draft an Employee Handbook.

Action needed: 1) To put together an employee model of tasks to complete. 2) Discuss with the office staff to see what their opinions and struggles are. Maybe we can find a way to even make improvements. 3) Argy will help Richard, as well as T Zavos and G Giolas.

Motion: To donate \$25,000 to the Metropolis Parish Relief fund M Pontikes/ 2nd A Koutsikos:

Vote 14-1-1 Pass

Priest's Remarks:

Fr George: About a week ago, we asked the parish Council to call members of our Parish and see how they are doing and offer any assistance, and to call those that you know first. Please call about 10 names from the parish list provided. We may even get more parishioners interested in volunteering for the church.

Communication from the Archdiocese: The lighting of the candle at midnight will not happen. Discussion of having certain services altered. No palms will be handed out, the Church will remain closed. Services will be streamed on YouTube channel Live.

Fr Dean:

Consider that we are not going to do a festival in July, but we can certainly do something small in the new building in the Fall. There is nothing wrong with raising additional funds. It's going to be a strange Pascha for us this year, but it is still Pascha. Pascha is about love.

P Giannopoulos: Request to have members of Phase III Committee remain on the call.

Motion to Adjourn: E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd A Rizos **Vote: Unanimous Pass**

Closing Prayers led by Fr Dean at 10:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Ioannou, Recording Secretary