

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 19, 2020**

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:16pm with prayers being led by Father Dean via Zoom.

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

Absent: N Andrews, N Gianaris, A Koutsikos, R Kozlowski

President's Remarks: G Giolas presided over the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Telos Project: Led by Katie Anastasiadis. Phase I of the Telos Project is concluded. The next phase is identifying themes within the data and deciding what the next steps will be. Themes that were found included: 1) not having a connection to the ministries 2) lack of identity, 3) not knowing how to connect, 4) not understanding the faith. These findings are not the only ones, as there may be blind spots; data will continue to be collected. Some of the initial ideas for next steps include reaching out to ministry leaders to see what they need. Things that can be done now (due to COVID restrictions) include reviewing dated material on the website and seeing if updates can be improved. For example, the information does not give an adequate picture of the ministries. Discussion had with regards to synchronizing the youth to create ministries, of teaching the youth about the Orthodox Faith in a way that captures interest, creating a survey, online social media accounts (Instagram), and having Telos Project leaders join a Stewardship meeting. Katie is waiting for feedback from the Hellenic College Holy Cross.

Minutes: Led by K Ioannou

Motion: To approve the July minutes as corrected. P Giannopoulos / 2nd T Zavos **Vote: 12-0-3
Pass Unanimously**

Treasurer's Report: Led by T Sikoral. Review of June and July financial statements. **Motion:** To accept June 2020 Financial Report. E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd P Giannopoulos **Vote: 14-0-1
Pass Unanimously**

Motion: To accept the July 2020 Financial report after corrections **Vote: 10-0-5 Pass
Unanimously**

School Board: Led by T Zavos. The School Board met on July 28, 2020. Parish Council members in attendance included P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, T Kanelos, R Kozlowski, D Loomos, T Sikoral, T Zavos (also School Board) and Fr Dean (also School Board). G Anastasiadis, School Board member, was present. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how to best manage the School operating budget favorability both short and long term. T Zavos provided two page handout prior to Parish Council meeting.

Motion: To accept the recommendations outlined in handout:

Recommendations: 1) School can retain \$15,000 of the \$19,000 in net favorability from the 2019-2020 School budget

- Funds will be moved to Restricted - School Discretionary Fund on the Parish balance sheet
- Restricted – School Discretionary Fund can be used by School Board to:
 - Purchase goods/services, or in any manner deemed for betterment of any or all School Programs – Address any potential School net operating budget deficits beginning with 2021-2022 school-year
 - School Board to provide Parish Council with accounting of what is used from Restricted account
- Funds to remain in Restricted
 - School Discretionary Fund unless spent by the School Board

2) On an annual school-year basis, the School can retain in the Restricted - School Discretionary Fund the lesser of the unspent budgeted Discretionary Spending or net operating budget favorability

- Funds will be moved annually to the Restricted - School Discretionary Fund on the Parish balance sheet
- Restricted - School Discretionary Fund never to exceed total balance of \$50,000
- Any funds exceeding \$50,000 to be retained for Parish use

Vote: 15-1-2 Pass. T Zavos abstained because he is also on the School Board.

Schools: Led by T Zavos. Brief discussion on the future of the schools. Much remains uncertain. Enrollment will be down this upcoming fall. Currently there are 30 students enrolled in the M-F school, vs 51 last year. 5 in the MWF vs 11 LY. 10 in the enrichment (there is overlap from other schools). For the afternoon school, there are 41 enrolled in the in-person and 8 enrolled virtual. For the Saturday school, 37 are enrolled in person and 6 virtually. Schools are reopening, all within the guidelines of the CDC and the state of Illinois.

Employees as Voting Members of the School Board: Led by T Kanelos. Having employees of the school as voting members of the school board is a conflict of interest, and not good practice. Key points brought up that it is approved per the By Laws. First step will be to amend the school By-Laws. T Zavos to follow up with a document of By Laws.

Stewardship: Led by G Giolas. As of August 15, 2020, 511 stewards pledged \$342,257 or about \$670 average per steward. As of August 19, 2020, 544 stewards pledged \$344,407 or \$615 average.

Food Fest: Led by P Giannopoulos. The last food fest meeting was 8/17. There will be a drive through Food Fest on September 19 and 20th from 1 to 8pm. The menu will include pork and chicken souvlaki, gyro, rice, lamb chops and fries, loukoumades, pastries, side salad. No drinks, tiropites. There will probably be a 50-50 raffle and a way to call in (live streaming). They are still working through the logistics of pick up and parking lot arrangement, most likely in the back of the church.

For the Good of the Parish: Led by G Giolas

For the Building and Grounds committee: There is still a persistent odor in classroom 7 (corner on the left). It will probably need a new roof drain since it was recently pulled out (T Karabatsos). Interior window sill out of place in the 2nd classroom on the left (T Karabatsos to look into).

Men's Event: Led by A. Demeros. Proposal for an all virtual event of the same even, perhaps in the multipurpose room. No dinner. Tickets to be printed soon with the same pricing. People are looking to make donations.

Basketball: Led by D Loomos. There will be practices but no competition until at least January.

Ushering: Some parishioners voiced concerns over people not wearing masks in church, and they are afraid to attend services. People take off their masks temporarily for antidoro, but usually put back on after. Council members that Usher nearly every service stated that everyone is putting on masks. During memorial services, it was noticed that families from different households may be assembling in closer contact in the church (not recommended). Ushers should remind people to put on the mask above the nose, and try to keep members of different households separated by at least 6 feet if unable to relocate to different pew, and remind them to go back to the same seat after communion.

Priest's Remarks: Going back to Katie's overview of the Telos Project, there may be a need to perhaps educate the parents on the importance of faith education. An idea may be to have religious education for the parents. The Gospels teach to have a positive outlook, with hope.

Motion to adjourn: E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd T Sikoral **Vote: Pass, Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Krystal Ioannou, Recording Secretary