

# Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting

## Minutes

2/22/23 @ 7:30 PM

### Attendance:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Bell, Peter</del>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linardakis, Emilia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chechopoulos, George   | <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Maragos, Jim</del>       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chiganos, Terry        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milak, Steven      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Dokos, Fr. George</del>      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pappas, Patty      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Dranias, Valerie</del>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pepke, Chris       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgiou, Fr. Nicholas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pihos, Sandy       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kafkes, Lou            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pomrening, Norman  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirkeles, Nick         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theotikos, Lena    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leider, Bill           |  |

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening
  - o Called to order @ 7:35pm
2. Opening Prayer: Father Nicholas
3. Affirmation of Office: Chris Pepke
  - o Chris Pepke was sworn in by Fr. Nicholas.
4. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
5. Formal Approval of Jan 2023 Parish Council Minutes: Steve Milak
  - o **MOTION by Steve, seconded by George:** To approve the [minutes](#) from the Jan. 16, 2023 meeting.
    - i. Motion passed.
6. Approval & Publication of Minutes: Steve Milak
  - o Norm - let's table and move discussion to a sub-committee.
  - o Subcommittee will consist of Sandy, Patty, Peter, and Steve.
7. Correspondence: Steve Milak
  - o Read through correspondence -
    - i. IOCC Souper Bowl of caring appeal for Feb. 12.
    - ii. Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry donation receipt.
    - iii. Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Appeal.
    - iv. Thank you card from Zoe (Greek School Principal).
8. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Nicholas
  - o Presented a Journey to Pascha roadmap.
  - o Went over a high level meaning of each Sunday leading up to and during the fast.
  - o The aim is to prepare for Pascha.

## 9. Ministries

- Finance: Lou Kafkes
  - i. Sent out the four finance reports and went over the details.
- Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke
  - i. Handicapped door was installed; needs final tuning.
  - ii. Met with Patrick Dranias re: ComEd rebates moving to different light bulbs and fixture types.
  - iii. Up and coming
    - 1. Quote for visual covering of the air conditioning units, which is required by the village.
  - iv. Question on brick project - Norm, still working to understand the technical issues. Primarily did the application of sealant to bricks protected them from further damage or contributed to additional damage.
- Technology: Steve Milak
  - i. General IT
    - 1. UPS protection installed for Liz's workstation and priests' wireless mic transmitters.
    - 2. Received administrative access to Google Workspace and handling user account issues.
    - 3. Cable cleanup
      - a. Will re-route the livestream wire to not run along the wall.
      - b. Will clean up the WiFi access point hanging from the blue wire outside the Sunday School office.
      - c. Will clean up the network cable and defunct WiFi access point in the basement.
    - 4. Working on getting more money for technology related projects like last year.
  - ii. Enhanced WiFi Project
    - 1. WiFi access points (WAPs) installed in the conference room and all main floor classrooms ([photos](#)).
      - a. Bid from OSG was about \$6-\$7k for the installation.
      - b. Completed for \$700 in parts.
    - 2. The signal is strong enough to be picked up by the basement classroom; re-evaluating the need for installing WAPs there.
    - 3. If the Building and Grounds (B&G) committee is satisfied with the installation, we can leave as-is and save the money that would have otherwise been spent on the data cabling project.
    - 4. Greek School tested last week and indicated they are able to use their devices.
    - 5. Sunday School utilized the WiFi during past Sundays' classes.

6. GOYA room and priest offices are next. May redo the multi-purpose room if desired.
- iii. Data Audit
    1. Still accumulating information; no tangible progress since last meeting.
  - iv. Google Docs
    1. Brief context on the project provided.
    2. A Cloud Docs survey was sent to the PC on Jan. 25 and other key members of the parish that are doing administrative work.
    3. [Survey results](#) indicate most people (58.8% respondents) are familiar with Google Docs.
    4. Training will be offered in the coming months for people who would benefit.
    5. **MOTION by Steve, seconded by Chris:** That Holy Apostles adopt Google Docs, leveraging the existing Google Workspace for the church.
      - a. Motion passes.
- Stewardship: Lou Kafkes
    - i. Gave an overview of the stewardship report and pledge data.
    - ii. Discussed amount pledged vs. collected to date.
    - iii. Shared data on median and average pledge.
    - iv. First Trivia night was on Jan. 28; very successful evening with good reviews.
      1. Will likely do again towards the beginning of the school year.
      2. Will also have another event in January of next year.
    - v. Stewardship and Welcome Committees brought together to consider future initiatives
    - vi. Next event after Pascha will be a kids fun fair, headed by Katy Fisher.
  - Ushering: Norm Pomrening
    - i. Availability Dates
      1. Parish Council members were asked to fill out a form indicating what days they are not available to usher during Lent.
    - ii. Coffee Hour
      1. Have experienced situations where no one has signed up for coffee hour and required last minute activity from parishioners in order to have something.
      2. People not signing up for hosting coffee hour is still a problem.
      3. In the past years there have been varying viewpoints on how to handle. Coffee hour is a sub topic under the Outreach and Evangelism committee and it will be discussed there.
      4. Ideas of having ministries, families were considered. Outreach was emphasized as a means of trying to capture volunteers.

- Greek School: Lena Theotikos
  - i. The Greek School parade is coming up on March 26th.
  - ii. Coincides with Spring break in the suburbs. As of now, Zoe has 5 kids signed up.
  - iii. Raised question - in the past there was always a float, does the parish council want to provide a float at the parade.
  - iv. **MOTION by Lena, seconded by Sandy:** To have a float for the parade and fund it at \$725 (~50% of the cost).
    - 1. Motion passed.
  - v. All parishioners would be welcome to ride the float.
  - vi. March 23 is the Greek School program.
- Youth Update: Father Georgiou
  - i. Alexa Cussick is doing a great job with the kids.
  - ii. Shared some specifics of lessons and cards made for a member of the parish who is not well.
  - iii. Trying to do more joint activities with St. Demetrios of Elmhurst
  - iv. Tots program is going very well, run by Deanne Chiganos.
  - v. Shared some details of what has been done in Tots gatherings.
  - vi. Still in a rebuilding phase from COVID, but things are looking good.
  - vii. Question on how many youths are going on the San Francisco trip; unknown at this point, but optimistic there will be the minimum.
  - viii. Question on \$15k for GOYA - is it for the trip or general GOYA account - answer was that it's in the general GOYA account.
    - 1. Unknown at this point how much GOYA money will go towards the trip.
  - ix. Question on whether GOYA will go to a Valentine's Day dance at St. Haralambos this coming Friday. Answer - unknown, will look into.
  - x. Chris Pepke - 15 kids from Holy Apostles attended the YAL conference last weekend.
- Missions:
  - i. Macaronatha Luncheon – Lou Kafkes
    - 1. 160 committed reservations; will likely be in the 200 range.
    - 2. Maintenance team to set up the room on Friday.
    - 3. Most food and supplies have been donated.
    - 4. After Saturday Liturgy for the Souls, help is needed to setup the tables (table cloth, settings, etc).
    - 5. Vespers potluck is on Saturday evening; will have them use the far corner as to preserve the setup tables.
    - 6. Question on if anyone would be turned away if they did not sign up - Answer - no, plenty of food, it will be emphasized walkins will be welcome.
    - 7. Baskets will be held at the back of the church for the Project Mexico missions trip on 2/26.

## 10. Old Business:

- Dinner Dance Recap: Lena Theotikos
  - i. Dinner Dance was this past Sunday - huge success.
  - ii. 334 attendees.
  - iii. Shared cost and profit information - profit looks to be >\$94,000
  - iv. Norm - Huge and special thanks to Lena, Elaine, Emilia
  - v. If the church is looking to do this again the advice is to start earlier. The team was able to pull it off, but more time would be beneficial for a future event.
  - vi. Empress Banquets was very good to Holy Apostles.
  - vii. Norm - next meeting we will have a final report on the numbers.
  - viii. Nick Kirkeles - thanks for highlighting the boys basketball team.
  - ix. The parish council will vote how to use the funds at the March meeting.
  - x. Recommended that the next dinner dance take place for the 65th anniversary.
- Letterhead & Stationery: Emilia Linardakis
  - i. Sandy - shared some background on an instance where having thank you notes from the church would have been beneficial.
  - ii. Emilia - shared quotes for “thank you” notes -
    - 1. Vendor 1 - \$650 for 500, matching envelopes another \$280-610.
    - 2. Vendor 2 - \$171 for 500, matching envelopes another \$139
  - iii. Emilia - suggested the church shops around. Also that the church gets quotes on every printing job in the office.
- Landscaping Update: Nick Kirkeles
  - i. No diagrams available to share, but conveyed the general idea of redoing corner to corner landscaping at the church.
  - ii. Rough estimate from contractor around \$75k
  - iii. Contractor will propose new plans, which should be ready by the next meeting.
  - iv. If only the front of the church is considered, it is possible to get done before Pascha.
  - v. New landscaping will include lighting, plants, trees, etc.
  - vi. Last year the contractor was paid \$800 to come up with plans; this is moving on towards the second phase of the project.
- Altar Boy Robe Update: Father Georgiou
  - i. We are waiting for fabric samples from our preferred tailor in Greece. The samples will be reviewed, selected and then the robes will be made.

## 11. New Business:

- Ministry Oversight & Parish Council Committees: Norm Pomrening

- i. Sent out listing of all the ministries and where parish council members can be liaisons.
  - ii. Parish Council members asked to inform Norm what ministries they would like to serve as liaisons.
  - iii. Bill - Question on men's bathroom fan and the noise - Answer - fan is an odd size has to be customized.
- Cemetery Plot Sales Agreement: Patty Pappas
  - i. Re: Chapel Hill Cemetery plots.
  - ii. Holy Apostles had purchased over 200 plots. Currently, the church has 45.
  - iii. Dean Govostis had done a great job helping to bring organization to the space.
  - iv. Started a Google Drive and is collecting relevant documentation to the cemetery plots.
  - v. Presented a draft of an agreement for parishioners to purchase plots from the church.
  - vi. Indicated the difference between owning the plots vs. interment rights.
  - vii. Discussion on giving the Fathers the ability to work with people who might not be able to meet the contractual obligations.
  - viii. **MOTION by Norm, seconded by Terry:** To adopt the Interment Rights Sales Agreement presented.
    - 1. Motion passed.
- 10:30 pm Resurrection Service: Sandy Pihos
  - i. Some parishioners commented on the procession outside for the Resurrection Service. They expressed concerns with the reading of the Anastasi Gospel outside. Many were upset about candles blowing out, people talking during the service (more decorum in the pews), and leaving even earlier because they had one foot out the door. This completely broke the solemnity of the service by stopping to talk to people as they left.
  - ii. Sandy - indicated that on several Sundays we had run out of Sunday Bulletins.
  - iii. Last week's bulletin was smaller print; this was an anomaly and shouldn't happen again.
- Emergency Contact Procedure for Parishioners: Norm Pomrening
  - i. In emergencies, people generally find a parish council member and ask him to help get a hold of a priest.
  - ii. In favor of using a private call forwarding system that will go directly to the priest, along with an email.
- Norm - Basketball teams will be recognized on March 12th
- Norm - Tray to be passed for the earthquake victims in Turkey on March 5th

- Nick K. - Acknowledgement for Norm for taking two days out of his schedule to represent Holy Apostles at the funeral for Fr. George's mother.
- Fr. Nicholas - Celebration of Books will be March 12th
  - i. One speaker, Fr. George Parsenios, on Sunday night this year
  - ii. Topic will be "He was Buried in a New Tomb"
- Fr. Nicholas - Fr. Angelo Artemas has been in the hospital since Jan. 2  
Diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.
  - i. Prayers are asked for him.
  - ii. The clergy group is trying to raise \$500 from each church
  - iii. **MOTION by George, seconded by Emilia:** To send \$1000 to the metropolis clergy group collecting money for Fr. Angelo Artemas.
    - 1. Motion passes.

12. Next Meeting: 3/16

13. Key Dates:

- Cheesefare Sunday – 2/26
- Beginning of Great Lent – 2/27
- Greek School Program – 3/23

14. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou

15. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening

- Meeting is adjourned @ 9:36pm