

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting Minutes

4/27/23 @ 7:35 PM

Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell, Peter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linardakis, Emilia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chechopoulos, George | <input type="checkbox"/> Maragos, Jim |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chiganos, Terry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milak, Steven |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dokos, Fr. George | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pappas, Patty |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dranias, Valerie | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Kirkeles, Nick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theotikos, Lena |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leider, Bill | |

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of Mar 2023 Minutes: Steve Milak
 - a. **[MOTION by Steve Milak, seconded by Bill Leider]: To approve the meeting minutes from the March meeting.**
 - i. Motion passes.
5. Correspondence: Steve Milak
 - a. Sts. Constantine and Helen 100 yr anniversary invitation.
 - b. Selective insurance
 - c. Cook county assessor
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos
 - a. Fr. George presented The Parable of the Lighthouse
 - b. Fr. George led a discussion on the parable in relation to Holy Apostles.
7. Ministries
 - a. Finance: Lou Kafkes
 - i. March Update: Lou presented the March YTD Financial results:

The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$237,198 year-to-date, primarily due to stewardship pledges and Dinner Dance profits. As of 3/31, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$928,616. The Capital account cash balance has decreased by \$2,221

year-to-date. As of 3/31, the total Capital account cash balance is \$360,346.

1. Question on whether Barbara Pappas receives Project Salvation information - answer is that she does monthly.
 2. Lou will be bringing up future motions for moving funds to better interesting paying accounts.
 3. Question on who does the reconciliation - two people - Liz is primarily responsible for reconciliation. Trish audits reconciliation.
- ii. Pitney Bowes Expiring Contract: Emilia Linardakis & Lou Kafkes
 1. Research has been done on the postage situation at church, specifically, examining Pitney and Bowes in comparison to competitors along with using print services.
- b. Building & Grounds: Norm Pomrening
- i. Front doors
 1. LaGrange locksmith came out and adjusted/repared the deadbolt on the front door.
 2. After inspection, the door was determined to have numerous issues that required special expertise to repair.
 3. Estimates are being sought after for a repair.
 4. The building and grounds team expects to have a proposal for the next parish council meeting.
- c. Stewardship & Welcoming: Lou Kafkes
- i. Lou presented the March YTD Stewardship results:
 - Our 479 YTD pledges are 2% LESS than the 490 we had received by the end of March 2022. We have achieved 64% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to receive pledges from 750 families.
 - Our \$642K pledged is 9% MORE than the \$587K we had received by the end of March 2022. We have achieved 56% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to fund our entire operating budget of \$1,139K through pledges.
 - Our \$461K collected is 1% MORE than the \$455K we had received by the end of March 2022.
 - Our median pledge is \$800, EQUAL to the YTD March 2022 median pledge.
 - Our average pledge of \$1,340 is 12% MORE than the \$1,199 YTD March 2022 average pledge.
 - ii. The Stewardship Committee will put out a calendar of events for community service and social engagement throughout the year.
 1. Apr 30, Jul 29, Sep 30 and Dec 30 - 5th Saturday Serve Days
 2. May 13 Spring Social
 3. May 20 Fun Fest for preschool thru fifth grade.

4. Holy Apostles 5k being planned, possibly June 17
 5. Possibly doing 3 summer events such as Oak Brook Park District free outdoor concert on June 29
 6. July 27 White Sox Heritage Night
 7. August movie night at Holy Apostles
 8. Ministry Fair on Sep 10 (or first date of Sunday School, if different)
 9. Bears tailgate BBQ for Sep. or Oct.
 10. Fall Fest in Oct
 11. Small Group Dining in Nov or Dec
 12. Trivia Night for Jan. 27, 2024
- iii. Official transition of stewardship committee chair to Katy Fisher is scheduled for June and will be announced in the June issue of Mosaic.
- d. Ushering: George Chechopoulos
- i. May – Aug Schedule
 1. George Chechopoulos presented a new ushering schedule covering May through August.
 - ii. Sandy Pihos indicated if anyone needs a new name tag to contact her.
- e. Greek School: Lena Theotikos
- i. Overall, the school is functioning great.
 - ii. Discussed how to handle outstanding tuition.
 - iii. Get financials presented from Lena
 - iv. Zoe acquired grants and other equipment.
 - v. Zoe conducted performance evaluations of teachers.
 - vi. It was noted two teachers rated effective and one highly effective did not receive raises last year because they were new.
 - vii. **MOTION** by Lena, seconded by Val - To give a 2% raise to a highly effective teacher, a 1% raise for two teachers rated effective, and for the Greek School principal a 5% raise.
 1. Motion passes.
 2. Note, typically raises are given every two years to teachers.
 - viii. It was noted the Greek Independence Day Parade was poorly attended and an organized effort was not realized.
 - ix. **MOTION** by Lena, seconded by Sandy - To have an individual be a liaison for next year's Greek Independence Day parade.
 1. Motion passes.
- f. Communications: Father Georgiou
- i. Website Update
 1. Fr. Nicholas presented material on how the new website content will be organized.

- ii. Communications Feedback
 - 1. Announcement for Bingo did not have a sign up link.
 - 2. It was commented that the Communications Specialist is great to work with.
 - g. Youth Update: Father Georgiou
 - i. TOTS, JOY, Goya, and Jr. Goya are doing well.
 - ii. The Holy Friday retreat was well executed and received.
 - iii. The San Francisco trip is no longer planned due to lack of interest.
 - h. Missions: Peter Bell
 - i. Project Mexico planning is moving along.
 - ii. Macaronatha and other donations raised in excess of 11k, which covers the fees of participants and rental fees for vans.
 - iii. A May 17 a blood drive is scheduled.
 - iv. Jesse Brandow sent a "Thank you" video to the parish.
 - i. Caregivers Support: Val Dranias
 - i. Seminar Report
 - 1. Half day seminar was last Saturday.
 - 2. People from three other churches attended.
 - 3. 35 participants along with 3 presenters.
 - 4. Seminar was well received.
 - 5. The next one is October 14.
- 8. Old Business:
 - a. Sub Committee Report on Release of Minutes to Congregation: Sandy Pihos
 - i. Sub-committee met, reviewed articles of incorporation and the Illinois State Law, and concluded 7 points.
 - 1. The current process of officially approving minutes at a Parish Council meeting should be continued.
 - 2. Following approval, the Parish Council minutes will be posted to a new archive on the Holy Apostles website. This would essentially be the next day.
 - 3. Whenever a set of minutes is posted, there will be an announcement with a link in the Holy Apostles online Weekly News and website.
 - 4. The minutes should continue to be published in the Mosaic.
 - 5. If published minutes have been significantly edited in the Mosaic, then they will not be labeled "minutes";
 - 6. This committee reviewed the Illinois laws governing not-for-profits and under Illinois Public Act (805 ILCS 105/108.45) (from, chapter 32, paragraph 108.45) which states in summary: that any action which be taken at a meeting of the board of directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent

in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be approved in writing by all of the directors entitled to a vote with respect to the subject matter.

7. Lastly, to encourage greater community involvement, we recommend that the Parish Council discuss publishing the agenda in advance of the meetings.
 - ii. Discussion on point seven of publishing the minutes ahead of time. Discussion was tabled for now on publishing of agenda point 7 because of timing constraints.
 - iii. The recommendation was for the Parish Council to adhere to the first six points and provide a link in the online weekly newsletter after the minutes are passed.
- b. Motions in Advance of Meetings: Sandy Pihos
 - i. It was noted that according to Robert's Rule of Order motions passed out to members ahead of time cannot be changed without permission of the members.
 - ii. Issue was tabled for now.
- c. Landscaping Proposal: Norm Pomrening
 - i. Proposal by the Building and Grounds committee will cost ~\$60k.
 - ii. It was noted this proposal will need to be voted upon by the upcoming general assembly since the amount is more than originally presented. Then the proposal must be approved by the Metropolis BPA.
 - iii. **[MOTION** by Peter Bell, seconded by Bill Leider]: To approve the two motions described in the letter from the landscaping committee dated 4/18/2023 that sums \$60k.
 1. Motion passes.
 2. Motions from the landscaping committee letter -
 - a. To approve the expenditure, not to exceed \$45,000, for the beginning of the landscape project.
 - b. To approve the expenditure, not to exceed \$15,000, for the second phase of the landscape project.
- d. HA Endowment Update: Norm Pomrening
 - i. Sub-committee agreed unanimously that the fund would have a separate 501(c)3 tax status.
 - ii. No disbursement from the fund until it reaches \$2M.
 - iii. The general concept of the endowment fund will be presented to the general assembly in May.
 - iv. A lawyer and CPA will be sought for filing the necessary paperwork and crafting of bylaws.
 - v. Final approval and operation endowment fund will be presented at the October general assembly.

- e. Permanent Welcome Sign: Patty Pappas
 - i. The concept of a welcoming sign was proposed.
 - ii. The committee will provide quotes for signage at the next parish council meeting.
 - f. Office Reorganization Update: Emilia Linardakis
 - i. Effort is being put into more efficient ways the office can be reorganized for efficiency sake.
9. New Business:
- a. Chanter Stipend: Norm Pomrening
 - i. **[MOTION]** by Val Dranias, seconded by Sandy Pihos]: To give Helen Geanon and Fr. Perry \$1000 for their Holy Week chanting services.
 - 1. Motion passes.
 - b. Holy Week Recap
 - i. Successes & Failures
 - 1. A proposal was to have a committee composed of new and older members with institutional memory to write down organized procedures for operations during Holy Week services.
 - ii. Cleaning Feedback: Norm Pomrening
 - 1. Good feedback was received.
 - iii. Candle Selling During Holy Week: Sandy Pihos
 - 1. It was noted disorganization caused a variety of issues.
 - 2. It was noted Holy Apostles has not changed candle prices while other churches have.
 - iv. Collections Baskets During Holy Week: Sandy Pihos
 - 1. It was noted people were unaware there would be two baskets and that forewarning may be a good idea to prevent catching people off guard. Publishing what each collection is for was suggested.
 - c. Golf Outing: Norm Pomrening
 - i. The Golf Outing will take place July 10th at Seven Bridges.
 - d. Candle Stand: Sandy Pihos
 - i. QR Code at Candle Stand
 - 1. It was noted there were no QR codes at the candle stand.
 - 2. It was also noted there previously were, but likely they ran out.
 - ii. Candle Selling at Candle Stand
 - 1. Nothing logged for this agenda item.
 - iii. Hearing Loop
 - 1. It was noted that the hearing loop only works in the seating area of the nave.
 - e. Father Bill Memorial Coffee Hour: Nick Kirkeles
 - i. Will be held May 21st.

- f. What is Vision for Holy Apostles: Peter Bell
 - i. Two parishioners approached a parish council member asking what is the vision of Holy Apostles - a social club or church?
 - ii. It was offered that the current mission statement may not be enough and could be worth reconsidering.
- g. Church Picnic: Lou Kafkes
 - i. It was asked if there was a date for the church picnic.
 - 1. Not currently, but this will be looked into.
- h. Bulletin: Lou Kafkes
 - i. Research will be done into reducing cost for color bulletins.
- i. Mother's Day: George Chechopoulos
 - i. It was noted last year some mothers did not receive flowers and a recommendation was made to be more organized this year.

10. Next Meeting: 5/18

11. Key Dates:

- a. Greek School Glow Event – 5/7
- b. Bingo Night - 5/13
- c. Spring Fest - 5/20
- d. Parish Assembly – 5/21

12. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou

13. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening

- a. [**MOTION** by Peter Bell, seconded by Bill Leider]: To adjourn the meeting at 10:30pm.
 - i. Motion passes.