

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting Minutes

5/18/23 @ 7:30 PM

Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell, Peter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linardakis, Emilia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chechopoulos, George | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Theotikos, Lena |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leider, Bill | |

1. Call to Order: *Norm Pomrening*

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Opening Prayer: *Father Dokos*

3. Recite Mission Statement: *Norm Pomrening*

4. Approval of April 2023 Minutes: *Steve Milak*

- [MOTION to approve by Steve Milak, seconded by Bill Leider]: To approve the minutes from the April Parish Council meeting.

5. Correspondence: *Steve Milak*

- Correspondence was read from IOCC (a thank you note for the Palm Sunday donation of \$1688) and thank you card from Fr. Dn. Perry Hamalis.

6. Ecclesiastical Report: *Father Dokos*

- An excerpt from the Fourth Catechetical Lecture of St. Cyril of Jerusalem was shared, titled "Christ is Ascended in Glory! And We With Him!"
- Fr. George indicated that as of Ascension, that will be the 100th service offered by Holy Apostles this year.
- An article titled "Eastern Orthodoxy Shows Growth In U.S. as Parishes Gain Converts" from the Wall Street Journal (May 18, 2023) was shared.

7. Ministries

a. Building & Grounds: *Bill Leider & Steven Savas*

- Steve Savas has been invited as a special guest for the Buildings & Grounds report.
- Steve Savas shared the 2023 Capital Updates spreadsheet.
- Questions were asked on whether the Building Projects and Architecture (BPA) Committee at the Metropolis approved the landscaping project.

- Answer - Not yet as they are requiring approval from the May Parish Assembly.
- **[MOTION]** by Bill Leider, seconded by Sandy Pihos]: To approve expenditures not to exceed \$25,000 for the front door repair and to approve expenditures not to exceed \$5,000 for the video camera and alarm upgrades.
 - Passed unanimously.
- Steve Savas was excused from the meeting.

b. Finance: *Lou Kafkes*

- The April 2023 financial report was shared.
- The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$278,496 year-to-date, primarily due to stewardship pledges and Dinner Dance profits. As of 4/30, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$969,988.
- The Capital account cash balance has decreased by \$2,798 year-to-date. As of 4/30, the total Capital account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$359,769.
- Questions were asked on Project Salvation and why the church has an account for the ministry.
 - Answer - It was under the Amnos ministry, which was under Holy Apostles.
- Lou indicated he was looking at CDs at other banks that may be yielding higher interest rates, preferably in the 4.5% or higher range.
 - A term of six to nine months is being examined.
- We filed the church's 2023 Annual Exempt Affidavit to the Cook County Assessor's Office. Special thanks to Joan Berg for her time to discuss and review the document's requirements.
- Finally, on 5/5, thanks to Alicia Magas and Patricia Gibbons, we completed and submitted the National Ministries Total Commitment Data for 2024 Archdiocese Allocation to the Metropolis of Chicago.

c. Technology: *Steve Milak*

i. General IT

- Fr. George's new laptop was ordered and has been received.
- Outsource Solutions Group (OSG), the church's IT manager, returned a poor quote on a replacement computer for Fr. Nicholas. Other means will be pursued for a new machine.
- OSG informed the church that our number of support hours are low and are asking us to purchase another batch of thirty-five hours for a little over \$5,000. We will continue to evaluate the need for this in the coming months.

ii. Enhanced WIFI Project

- Five WIFI access points will likely be installed over the next couple months - GOYA room, HARC, multipurpose room, and both priests' offices.

iii. Data Audit

- Steve Milak and Alicia Magas met in April to discuss the scope of the data audit along with key deliverables. This effort is in progress.

iv. Google Docs

- A new Google documents folder was created in the Holy Apostles Google Workspace for -
 - Storing the landscape project documentation.
 - Storing all Parish Council meeting minutes from 2022 along with those that have been approved for 2023. Additional monthly meeting minutes will be added as they are approved.
 - A survey for a Google Doc training date will be sent out to Parish Council members interested in learning more about how to leverage the technology.

v. Current website

- A number of updates were made to clean things up and get rid of outdated content.

d. Stewardship & Welcoming: *Lou Kafkes*

- Here are our 2023 YTD Results as of 4/30:
 - Our 529 YTD pledges are 6% LESS than the 563 we had received by the end of April 2022. We have achieved 71% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to receive pledges from 750 families.
 - Our \$710K pledged is 7% MORE than the \$665K we had received by the end of April 2022. We have achieved 62% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to fund our entire operating budget of \$1,139K through pledges.
 - Our \$542K collected is 1% MORE than the \$535K we had received by the end of April 2022.
 - Our median pledge is \$800, 14% MORE than the \$700 YTD April 2022 median pledge.
 - Our average pledge of \$1,342 is 14% MORE than the \$1,181 YTD April 2022 average pledge.
- A discussion was had on outreach activities.
- Bingo Night went very well; fifty five people attended.
- A calendar of upcoming events was put together:
 - Sat, Jun 17 - 17th Annual 5K Family Run & Walk, 8:30am
 - Thu, Jun 22 - Movie Night @ Holy Apostles
 - Thu, Jul 13 - Movie Night @ Holy Apostles
 - Thu, Jul 27 - White Sox Greek Heritage Night vs Cleveland Guardians, 7:10pm
 - Sat, Jul 29 - 5th Saturday Serve Day, 10:00-11:30am
 - Tue, Aug 8 - BEDS Packing Event (after 7:00pm Paraklesis Service)
 - Sun, Sep 10 - Annual Ministry Fair & Coffee Hour (after 9:30am Divine Liturgy)
 - Sun, Sep 17 - Bears Game Tailgate @ Holy Apostles (after 9:30am Divine Liturgy)
 - Sat, Sep 30 - 5th Saturday Serve Day, 10:00-11:30am

- Sat, Oct TBD - Family Fall Fest
 - Sat, Nov 11 - Small Groups Dining Experience
 - Sat, Dec 30 - 5th Saturday Serve Day, 10:00-11:30am
- e. Ushering: *George Chechopoulos*
- Updated ushering list started Sunday, May 7th.
 - Usher schedules were sent to key parishioners involved.
 - Mother's Day went very well; flowers were cut in the morning and put on trays before 8:30am.
- f. Youth Update: *Father Georgiou*
- Discussions were had on the summertime meeting strategy. The two times per month scheduled during the school year will not hold over the summer.
 - Around July a ministry strategy will be put in place for the coming school year.
- g. Missions: *Peter Bell*
- The blood drive took place yesterday and was reasonably successful.
 - The Missions Ministry will more carefully assess the calendar for the next date to garner more participation.
 - **[MOTION]** by Steve Milak, seconded by Val Dranias]: To donate \$525 to AHEPA Lakeshore Chapter 205 which will be used to purchase 15 backpacks (\$10 a backpack and \$25 for supplies) from Focus North America for the Chapter's annual back to school backpack drive.
 - Passes unanimously.

8. Old Business:

- a. HA Foundation Update: *Jim Maragos*
- Good progress is being made. The committee has a good project timeline in place and Joan Berg has volunteered to donate her time as legal counsel.
 - Draft documents have been reviewed with the committee to help understand what points will need to be worked out in the coming months, mostly related to foundation by-laws.
 - The goal is get everything ready for the October Parish Assembly. In the coming months continual updates will be given for progress on the effort.
 - At the Parish Assembly on Sunday the following motion will be made:
 - To authorize a committee to proceed with drafting and developing a foundation for the benefit of Holy Apostles Church.
- b. Office Reorganization Update: *Emilia Linardakis*
- The job description for a new parish administrator was shared.
 - **[MOTION]** by Peter Bell, seconded by Emilia Linardakis]: To approve the parish administrator job description proposed by Emilia Linardakis, as edited and amended during this meeting.
 - Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Father Bill Memorial Coffee Hour: *Sandy Pihos*
- An observation was made that the memorial coffee hour for Fr. Bill (May 21st) was not on the parish calendar.
 - The parish council members are asked to bring items for the coffee hour.
- d. Color Bulletins: *Lou Kafkes*

- As promised during our last meeting, Lou researched the cost difference between printing our Sunday bulletins in color vs. black and white. If we assume 52 Sundays, 250 bulletins per week and 6 pages (3 two-sided sheets of 8 ½" x 14" paper), our total paper usage is 78,000 pages. To print all color pages, it's \$2,425.80 per year. To print all black and white pages, it's \$616.20 per year. Therefore, the incremental cost to print color is \$1,809.60, which equates to ~\$150 per month or ~\$35 per Sunday.

9. New Business: *Norm Pomrening*

a. Picnic Date

- It was noted people have been asking about the picnic date and the parish council should determine the date soon.
- Sunday, July 30th was proposed as the picnic date.

b. Carpet for Choir Room & Loft

- Carpet samples were shared from Thomas for installation in the choir loft.
- Installation will require removal of pews.
 - This is the most complex aspect of the project.
 - There is concern with damage to the organ.
- Bill Leider indicated choir members informed him they would like cushioned carpet or mats.

c. Lighting for the Choir Loft: *Bill Leider*

- It was noted choir members indicated there are lighting issues.
- Bill Leider will share this concern with the Building and Grounds Committee on how it might be addressed.

10. Next Meeting: 6/15

- Norm will be out of town that day and Jim Maragos will run the meeting.

11. Key Dates:

- Parish Assembly – 5/21
- 5k - 6/17
- Golf Outing – 7/10
- Picnic - 7/30

12. Closing Prayer: *Father Georgiou*

13. Adjourn: *Norm Pomrening*

- [MOTION]** by George Checholpoulos, seconded by Emilia Linardakis]: To adjourn the meeting at 9:34 pm.
 - Motion passes.