

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting Minutes

6/15/23 @ 7:30 PM

Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pepke, Chris |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgiou, Fr. Nicholas | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinos, Sandy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kafkes, Lou | <input 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: *Jim Maragos*

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

2. Opening Prayer: *Father Dokos*

3. Recite Mission Statement: *Jim Maragos*

- “The mission of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim and live our Orthodox faith as One Church and One Body of Christ through worship, ministries, education, and youth guidance; “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7).

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

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

5. Correspondence: *Steve Milak*

- A “thank you” note was read from the family of Fr. Bill Chiganos for hosting the coffee hour.
- An appeal from the Westchester Fire Department National Safety Council appeal was read for acquiring safety literature for children and seniors.
- [MOTION by Nick Kirkeles, seconded by Val Dranias]: To send \$300 to the Westchester Fire Department National Fire Safety Council appeal.
 - Motion passes unanimously.

6. Ecclesiastical Report: *Father Dokos*

- Fr. George made a presentation on the Sunday of All Saints.

7. Ministries

- a. Building & Grounds: *Chris Pepke, Bill Leider*
 - Air Conditioners

- Chris Pepke shared that the nave AC is not working and that it seems to be a problem with the controls.
- However, it is not certain the issue is with the controls and specialists are coming on site soon to help diagnose the root cause.
 - Question on the date the specialists will arrive.
 - Answer: a request has been put in and the church has not heard back on a date.
- Concern was expressed for the near term services and events where the days will be hot.
- A comment was made that the choir has reported it has been extremely hot in the loft.
 - A question was proposed if there is anything that could be done in the interim.
 - Answer: the window cannot be opened, but fans might be able to be used.
- Landscaping
 - The BPA has asked the church to provide additional bids to be submitted as part of the proposal.
 - Concern was expressed that it would be difficult to get additional bids at this point in the season.
 - Chris Pepke is engaging additional contacts to help acquire more bids.
- Front Door
 - Chris Pepke shared that he is getting bids and proposals.
 - The work on the front door will come with some aesthetic trade-offs while construction is underway.
 - The depth of work is unknown until the existing door is taken down/opened up.
- Men's Bathroom Fan
 - Chris Pepke fixed the men's bathroom fan.
- Choir Loft Rug and Lighting
 - Bill Leider reported that based on conversations with the Building and Grounds committee this effort is in progress.

b. Finance: *Lou Kafkes*

The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$255,314 year-to-date. As of 5/31, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$946,806. The Capital account cash balance has decreased by \$3,278 year-to-date. As of 5/31, the total Capital account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$359,291.

- Question on the Project Salvation account and what is the plan for it?
 - Lou Kafkes spoke with Barbara Pappas and received a report on the current status of the project and finances.

- Eight different banks have been engaged to look for the most competitive rates on CDs.
 - Once the information from the banks have been received the finance committee will meet to determine the best course of action to present to the parish council.
- d. Stewardship & Welcoming: *Lou Kafkes & Patty Pappas*
 - Stewardship report
 - Here are the highlights of how we compared to YTD May 2022:
 - Our 558 YTD pledges are 5% LESS than the 585 we had received by the end of May 2022. We have achieved 74% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to receive pledges from 750 families.
 - Our \$726K pledged is 7% MORE than the \$680K we had received by the end of May 2022. We have achieved 64% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to fund our entire operating budget of \$1,139K through pledges.
 - Our \$572K collected is 3% MORE than the \$557K we had received by the end of May 2022.
 - Our median pledge is \$700, EQUAL TO the \$700 YTD May 2022 median pledge.
 - Our average pledge of \$1,301 is 12% MORE than the \$1,163 YTD May 2022 average pledge.
 - Katy Fisher ran the first Stewardship Committee meeting yesterday.
 - It was noted the 5k is coming up this Saturday.
 - Greek Heritage night at the White Sox game is coming up and will require a minimum of fifteen individuals to secure block seating.
 - It was noted the Sox are doing terrible this year.
 - Welcome Sign
 - Patty Pappas shared that the committee has determined a welcoming sign is needed.
 - Details on the design of a new sign were shared along with placement ideas in the exo-narthex.
 - Current bids for a bronze sign have come in around \$3300.
 - An alternative for \$1000 was proposed as well that is acrylic based.
 - Discussion ensued on whether a long term solution in terms of a bronze sign should be pursued or the cheaper proposal.
 - **[MOTION by Patty Pappas, seconded by Val Dranias]:** To approve a bronze welcome sign for the exo-narthex not to exceed \$4000.
 - Motion passes unanimously.
 - It was noted that funds would come from the Building and Grounds budget.
 - Chris Pepke noted the Building and Grounds Committee would like to be present for the installation.
- e. Ushering: *George Chechopoulos*
 - As of last Sunday an email was sent out to remind those assigned to duties.

- Email reminders will be sent for all upcoming shifts in the future along with training people unfamiliar with duties.
 - Emilia shared that there are not enough GOYANs signed up to pin flowers on fathers for Father's Day.
 - It was suggested women volunteers will be sought.
 - Another suggestion was to have the women who are serving on the welcoming committee help that day.
 - For June 29th all parish council members are expected to attend.
 - George Chechopoulos volunteered to take the usher in charge position.
- f. Youth Update and Vacation Bible School: *Father Georgiou*
- The theme for VBS is "Keepers of the Kingdom".
 - Eighty kids and forty volunteers are part of the program.
 - The week has been going very well and will end with a fun carnival for the kids, which will include a dunk tank.
 - The plan for the other youth ministries is to have each group meet once a month over the summer.
 - A youth graduates (seniors) dinner was hosted tonight at Maggianos.
 - A question was raised on the status of new altar boy robes.
 - Answer - an individual from the church is traveling to Greece and it is expected they will take care of the situation.
 - It was asked if there were places in the U.S. that could be used.
 - Answer - no, it would be too expensive.
- g. Missions: *Peter Bell & Jim Maragos*
- Spero and Stacy Kinnas will be retiring from running the Missions Ministry.
 - New leaders are being sought.
 - Marilyn Athas and Scott Sanders are retiring as editors of the Mosaic Committee.
 - They have served for 27 years.
 - The Parish Council and the Holy Apostles Community expresses much thanks to them for their generous service.
 - Val Dranias has volunteered to be a new editor for the Mosaic.
 - However, a digital layout person is being sought for the Mosaic.

8. Old Business:

- a. HA Foundation Update: *Jim Maragos*
- The foundation committee met last night and worked through about a third of the material presented by Joan Berg.
 - The committee will continue to meet to go through the material in preparation for a meeting with Joan Berg and to be ready for the October parish assembly.
- b. Parish Administrator Position: *Emilia Linardakis*
- The position has been advertised through the Metropolis and OrthodoxJobs.com
 - Only two applicants have applied.
 - There is concern among the committee that the pool of applicants is too small and that it may be necessary to advertise on additional forums.
 - Discussion was had around a desire to make sure the applicants are Orthodox.
 - The interviewing process will start late next week.

- It was noted Liz Dorner's last day is Aug. 30 and the goal is to have someone staffed by this time.

9. New Business:

a. Golf Outing: *Jim Maragos*

- The Golf outing will be on Monday, July 10th at Seven Bridges in Woodridge, IL.
- Every member of the parish council was encouraged to come to the dinner at the golf outing.
- It was noted that raffle prizes and sponsors are needed.

b. TELOS: *Chris Pepke*

- Chris Pepke shared that Holy Apostles has been selected for the TELOS program.
- About seven people from Holy Apostles have been selected to participate in the program.
- An emphasis of the program is to find ways to involve and keep young adults engaged in the Church.
- **[MOTION** by Chris Pepke, seconded by Nick Kirkeles]: To approve \$3000 for Holy Apostles' participation in the TELOS project.
 - Motion passes unanimously.

c. Church Picnic: *Jim Maragos*

- A committee is needed to plan the picnic.
- Nick Kirkeles volunteered to cook for the event.
- Steve Milak volunteered to help.
- Lou Kafkes will take an action item to reach out to people about leading the organizational effort of the picnic.

d. Miscellaneous: *Nick Kirkeles*

- A new athletic director is being sought as Aleka Ernst is retiring.
- Someone really needs to be found; things are at a critical point and causing risk to Holy Apostles participation.
- It was suggested that the meeting minutes be annotated for the Mosaic.
 - Discussion ensued and consensus was to scale down the minutes for publication in the Mosaic. An additional note would be added at the end on where to find the full version for those interested.
- Can the choir determine when they want to go to communion and have it be at a consistent time during the service?
 - Jim Maragos will contact the choir on this topic.

10. Next Meeting: 7/20

11. Key Dates:

- 5k - 6/17
- Golf Outing – 7/10
- Holy Apostles Vespers - 6/29
- Holy Apostles Liturgy - 6/30
- Picnic - 7/30

12. Closing Prayer: *Father Georgiou*

13. Adjourn: *Jim Maragos*

- a. **[MOTION** by Nick Kirkeles, seconded by George Chechopoulos]: To adjourn the meeting at 9:33 pm.