

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

7/19/23 @ 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 type="checkbox"/> Pappas, Patty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dranias, Valerie	<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
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.
- 2. Opening Prayer:** Father Dokos
- 3. Recite Mission Statement:** Norm Pomrening
 - a. "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 June 2023 Minutes:** Steve Milak
 - a. **[MOTION to approve by Steve Milak, seconded by Bill Leider]:** To approve the minutes from the June Parish Council meeting.
 - i. Motion passes unanimously.
- 5. Correspondence:** Steve Milak (3 mins)
 - a. The following correspondences were read -
 - i. St. Basil 100 Year Anniversary Gala Invitation.
 - ii. Thank you for donation to The Shrine of Christ's Passion.
 - iii. Thank you for donation to BEDS PLUS.
 - iv. Thank you for donation to the Westchester Food Pantry.
 - v. Communication from the Metropolis for the upcoming Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly on October 12.
 - vi. Communication from the Archdiocese on clergy compensation guidelines.
- 6. Ecclesiastical Report:** Father Dokos (10 mins)
 - a. Fr. George shared details on the Project Mexico trip, which the Holy Apostles team is embarking on tomorrow morning.
- 7. Ministries**
 - a. *Building & Grounds:* Chris Pepke (10 mins)

- i. AC Update
 - 1. Parts are on order for fixing issues with the A/C.
 - 2. Condensation issues have been found and are being addressed.
 - 3. The Building and Grounds team continues work on these issues with the contractor and equipment manufacturer.
- ii. Maintenance Update
 - 1. Chris Pepke power washed many parts outside of the church.
 - 2. Removed many sign posts that no longer have signs.
 - 3. The freezer broke and the team, after a financial analysis, determined replacing the unit as opposed to repairing.
- iii. Landscaping Update
 - 1. Information on what needs to be removed from the landscaping is required for the project.
 - 2. The team is asking to have this information on a print that is easily readable.
 - 3. Consideration was discussed on where snow removal would go intersected with the landscape plan.
 - 4. A goal of the team is to get more bids in order to get the project approved the Metropolis BPA committee.
- iv. Water in Basement Update
 - 1. Permaseal provided pricing to seal the exterior wall of the building which includes the installation of drain tile for \$15,000. The B&G committee is considering signing a contract.
- v. Security/Fire Alarm Change
 - 1. A new company, Detection Systems and Services, will be overhauling the security and fire alarms of the church.
 - 2. This contractor has done work for various Metropolis assets.
- b. *Finance*: Lou Kafkes (5 mins)
 - i. The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$216,914 year-to-date. As of 6/30, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$908,406. The Capital account cash balance has decreased by \$800 year-to-date. As of 6/30, the total Capital account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$361,767. Although our YTD Net Revenue through 6/30 is \$216,917, our goal of a balanced budget will be challenging given that our monthly expenses will easily outpace Gross Revenue from now until the end of the year.
 - ii. **[MOTION** by Lou Kafkes, seconded by N]: To allow the executive committee to make a decision (before the due date of automatic rollover) on what to do with the proceeds of the \$250k CD at Old Second Bank in terms of what interest bearing account the money should be reinvested in.
 - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. It was discussed that a formal financial committee be formed.
- c. *Technology*: Steve Milak (3 mins)

- i. OSG Support Hours
 1. The church has mostly exhausted its support hours from OSG.
 2. If the church is to have continued support additional hours will need to be purchased.
 3. It is advisable, especially with the office transition, to continue with some level of support.
 4. Forty hours was purchased the last time around, which lasted for over 4 years.
 5. The hourly rate was negotiated down to \$135 from \$185.
 6. **[MOTION** by Steve Milak, seconded by Bill Leider]: To approve purchasing 20 more hours of technical support at an hourly rate of \$135 (~\$2700).
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.
- d. *Stewardship & Welcoming*: Lou Kafkes (10 mins)
 - i. Monthly Review
 1. Our 578 YTD pledges are 4% LESS than the 599 we had received by the end of June 2022. We have achieved 77% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to receive pledges from 750 families.
 2. Our \$744K pledged is 7% MORE than the \$696K we had received by the end of June 2022. We have achieved 65% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to fund our entire operating budget of \$1,139K through pledges.
 3. Our \$602K collected is 3% MORE than the \$585K we had received by the end of June 2022.
 4. Our median pledge is \$700, EQUAL TO the \$700 YTD June 2022 median pledge.
 5. Our average pledge of \$1,287 is 11% MORE than the \$1,162 YTD June 2022 average pledge.
 - ii. Strengthen Stewardship Now & Forever Initiative Workshop
 1. On June 24th members of the parish attended a presentation with Metropolis sponsored development director.
 2. An agenda was discussed that included stewardship, messaging, engagement, and collaboration with ministries.
 3. Specific goals were set in each of these areas, driven by various attendees.
 - a. Two of the goals focused on ownership and generosity.
 - b. A quarterly Artoklasia was also proposed to be celebrated for the work done by the ministries over the past few months.
- e. *Ushering*: George Chechopoulos (2 mins)
 - i. Various scheduling items regarding the officer in charge (OIC) and usher in charge (UIC) were worked out.
 - ii. A question was raised around a recent case of the church doors being left unlocked.

- iii. Formal procedures were discussed and ways to make sure they are implemented by the UIC.
 - f. *Youth*: Father Georgiou (2 mins)
 - i. Various monthly events (for each youth group) such as a recent JOY picnic and GOYA bonfire have been held throughout the summer.
 - ii. Planning for the next church year's youth activities is underway.
 - iii. A point was raised about an event being advertised and then canceled, without wider notice being sent.
 - g. *General Update*
 - i. Search for New Athletic Director
 - 1. Both Fr. Nicholas and Nick Kirkeles have not found a volunteer replacement.
 - 2. In the interim, Nick Kirkeles volunteered to temporarily hold the position until a long term volunteer could be found.
 - h. *Greek School*: Lena Theotikos (2 mins)
 - i. Forty students have already been enrolled.
 - i. *Missions*: Peter Bell (5 mins)
 - i. Project Mexico
 - 1. The team from Holy Apostles is leaving tomorrow.
 - 2. The ministry presented gifts of generic pepto-bismol for those going on the mission trip.
 - ii. Missions Ministry Leadership
 - 1. Spero and Stacy Kinnas are looking to step down.
 - 2. A replacement needs to be found by a to be determined hard date.
 - 3. If no replacement is found by the date, the Parish Council will fill in as interim leadership.
 - iii. Hoppe Family Update
 - 1. The Hoppes will be visiting the United States for a year sabbatical.
 - 2. Since they may not be doing missionary work a proposal is under consideration to suspend support.
 - 3. Further information will be gathered to gain more context on the situation.
 - iv. Funds for Laundry Kits for BEDS
 - 1. Missions and Stewardship Ministries are doing a joint effort to construct laundry kits for overnight guests.
 - 2. The goal is to pack 100 kits, which would cost \$420.
 - 3. **[MOTION]** by Peter Bell, seconded by Steven Milak]: To allow for the expenditure of \$500 for the assembling of laundry kits for the BEDS program.
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.
 - v. Youth Protection: Norm Pomrening (2 mins)
 - 1. Patty Pappas will step in as the interim lead for youth protection.
8. **Old Business:**
 - a. *Mosaic Update*: Val Dranias (2 mins)

- i. A new Mosaic Committee has been formed.
 - 1. Jenny Petrou is the new layout designer.
 - 2. Irene Boutzarelis and Diane Siestema will help with editing.
 - ii. A new change is the Mosaic will go out digitally.
 - 1. However, opt-in for mail will be an option.
 - b. *HA Endowment Update*: Jim Maragos (2 mins)
 - i. The next meeting is July 31st.
 - ii. The committee includes Jim Maragos, Lou Kafkes, Patty Pappas, Norm Pomrening, Jim Sotirakos, Gregory Arzoumanides, and Steven Milak.
 - iii. Work continues in order to present at the October Parish Assembly meeting.
 - c. *Golf Outing Recap*: Jim Maragos (5 mins)
 - i. One hundred golfers attended.
 - ii. \$34,000 of the \$38,000 in reservation and sponsorship revenue has been collected.
 - iii. As of now, approximately \$19,000 in expenses has been identified, leaving for a sizable profit.
 - d. *Website Update*: Father Georgiou (3 mins)
 - i. The projected go-live date is September 1st.
 - ii. The website is mostly done - the remaining changes are small in nature.
 - e. *Altar Boy Robes & Liturgy Book Update*: Father Georgiou (2 mins)
 - i. The design of the robes has been solidified.
 - ii. Purple and red fabric samples should be delivered in the next couple weeks. The group will select the fabric and then the vestments will be made.
 - iii. Holy Cross Bookstore indicated the Orthodox Marketplace is now selling the Liturgy books.
 - 1. However, follow up with the Orthodox Marketplace indicated they are out of print.
 - iv. It seems the effort is at a stopping point as the status of the situation is out of Holy Apostles' hands.
 - f. *Picnic Update*: Lou Kafkes (10 mins)
 - i. Elaine Katziotis has been doing tremendous work leading the planning of the picnic.
 - ii. As of tonight, there are 200 reservations.
 - iii. The tent, tables and chairs have been rented at a \$400 savings versus last year's expense.
 - iv. Volunteers have been found for key parts of running the day, although we still need help with cleanup, sound system set up and game prize purchases.
- 9. **New Business:**
 - a. *Fundraiser with Comedian*: Val Dranias (5 mins)
 - i. Val Dranias has contacted the comedian Basile about putting on a show at Holy Apostles.

- ii. \$3500 is the cost for the performance along with covering airfare.
- iii. Basile will help with publicity and other advertising materials.
- iv. 10% of merchandise sold during the event would go to the church.
- v. Discussion ensued on how much to charge for the event and when it should be held.
 - 1. Val will investigate and report back with more information on these questions.

10. **Next Meeting:** 8/17 (1 min)

11. **Key Dates:** (1 min)

- a. HA Picnic - 7/30
- b. **Closing Prayer:** Father Georgiou (2 mins)

12. **Adjourn:** Norm Pomrening (1 min)

- a. **[MOTION]** by Terry Chiganos, seconded by George Chechopoulos]: To adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm.

13. **Executive Session**