

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

8/24/23 @ 7:30 PM

Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell, Peter	<input type="checkbox"/> Linardakis, Emilia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chechopoulos, George	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maragos, Jim
<input 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 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 (1 min)
 - a. [The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.](#)
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos (2 mins)
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening (1 min)
 - 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 July 2023 Minutes: Steve Milak (2 mins)
 - a. [\[MOTION to approve by Nick Kirkeles, seconded by Val Dranias\]: To approve the minutes from the July Parish Council meeting.](#)
 - i. [Motion passes unanimously.](#)
5. Correspondence: Steve Milak (3 mins)
 - a. [The following correspondences were read -](#)
 - i. [Thank you from the Crossroad group that visited.](#)
 - ii. [A donation request from the 2023 Church Music Conference was read.](#)
 1. [\[MOTION by Val Dranias, seconded by Jim Maragos\]: To approve \\$125 full page donation for the 2023 Church Music Conference.](#)
 - a. [Motion passes unanimously.](#)
 - iii. [A notice from the Metropolis was read regarding the upcoming Clergy Laity Assembly on Oct. 11-13, 2023.](#)
 1. [\[MOTION by Nick Kirkeles, seconded by George Chechopoulos\]: To donate \\$1000 for the Clergy-Laity Assembly in October.](#)
 - a. [Motion passes.](#)
 - iv. [A nomination packet was sent by the Metropolis for the upcoming Metropolis Council nominations.](#)

6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos (10 mins)
 - a. Fr. George shared a nice meditation on the topic of “The Church Year Begins”.
7. Ministries
 - a. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke (5 mins)
 - i. Steve Savas is stepping down as the chairperson of the Building and Grounds Committee (B&G) and Chris Pepke is the new chairperson.
 - ii. Received bids for building out new cabinets in the multi-purpose and GOYA rooms next to the windows for \$12,000.
 1. **[MOTION]** by Sandy Pihos, seconded by Val Dranias]: To approve spending up to \$12,000 for cabinet infrastructure in the multi-purpose room.
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. A bid was received for painting the multi-purpose room, repairing the wall paper, and touching up the altar for \$8,000.
 1. **[MOTION]** by Chris Pepke, seconded by Val Dranias]: To approve spending up to \$8,000 for painting the multi-purpose room, repairing the wall paper, and touching up the altar.
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. The B&G committee met yesterday to put together a budget. They discussed pulling in the timeline for redoing the parking lot. The committee anticipates this will cost \$350,000.
 1. The timeline would be spring or summer for the actual work.
 - v. Chris has been researching old church documents and is discovering reasons for previous issues with the building and, for example, why the drain tile might have been damaged.
 - vi. Bill Leider has been appointed by the B&G committee as the lead for the choir loft project that will work on replacing the carpet.
 - b. Finance: Lou Kafkes (5 mins)
 - i. The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$181,797 year-to-date. As of 7/31, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$873,289. The Capital account cash balance has increased by \$1,350 year-to-date. As of 7/31, the total Capital account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest, is \$363,917. Although our YTD Net Revenue through 7/31 is \$181,800, our goal of a balanced budget will still be challenging given that our monthly expenses will easily outpace Gross Revenue from now until the end of the year.
 - c. Technology: Steve Milak (3 mins)
 - i. Outsource Solution Group Support Hours
 1. The contract was signed for the twenty additional support hours.
 - ii. WiFi Project
 1. Additional equipment will be ordered this month with a tentative completion date sometime before the end of September.
 - iii. Data Connection

1. Thanks to the efforts of George Chechopoulos the fiber optics data cable installation project has been completed.
- d. Stewardship & Welcoming: Lou Kafkes (5 mins)
- i. Here is the 2023 Stewardship report, detailing our results through July and how we compared to 2022:
 1. Our 590 YTD pledges are 4% LESS than the 613 we had received by the end of July 2022. We have achieved 79% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to receive pledges from 750 families.
 2. Our \$751K pledged is 6% MORE than the \$709K we had received by the end of July 2022. We have achieved 66% of our 2023 Stewardship Goal to fund our entire operating budget of \$1,139K through pledges.
 3. Our \$625K collected is 3% MORE than the \$607K we had received by the end of July 2022.
 4. Our median pledge is \$700, EQUAL TO the \$700 YTD July 2022 median pledge.
 5. Our average pledge of \$1,272 is 10% MORE than the \$1,157 YTD July 2022 average pledge.
 - ii. Lou reported that the stewardship committee is planning a Bears Tailgate after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 17. Burgers, brats, hot dogs and chili will be the featured food items and there will be a cash bar for beer and wine. This event is free to attendees, with the only fundraising done in a split-the-pot manner through the sale of \$25 squares. Lou passed out packets and asked that all Parish Council help sell squares.
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos (7 mins)
- i. Locking Up
 1. About five people have been trained on lock up procedures.
 - ii. Candles Responsibility
 1. Procedures for how to lock up and manage money at the candle stand were reiterated along with handling of the hearing loop receivers.
 - iii. Money Handling
 1. Proper procedures were reiterated.
 - iv. Usher Schedule
 1. The schedule for the coming months was discussed.
- f. Youth & Young Adults: Father Dokos (5 mins)
- i. 134 kids have been registered as of last night for youth ministries.
 - ii. 25 young adults have registered for YAL/Lampros.
 - iii. 18 addresses have been added for "Fall dorm addresses".
 - iv. New Lampros leadership is Tommy Pepke, Alex Pomrening, and Steph Chiganos as advisor.
 - v. YAL leadership is Steph Chiganos, Lia Chiganos, Nicole Papanton, and Anastasia Kourafas.

- vi. The reason for having two groups at Holy Apostles is because these young people are at totally different stages of life.
 - 1. It was shared that schedules are often different for college aged kids when compared to young working adults.
 - g. Greek School: Lena Theotikos (2 mins)
 - i. Greek School has 96 kids signed up.
 - ii. An extra helper has been hired due to the increase.
 - iii. Tuition collected should be approximately \$85,500.
 - h. Missions: Peter Bell (5 mins)
 - i. Members of the Missions Committee and Parish Council met with the Hoppes since they are back in the United States.
 - ii. There was concern they are back in the United States and not doing missionary work in Albania. However, it was clarified they are still doing mission work as they are continuing their education before heading back to Albania next year.
 - iii. They are looking for a home base church and are wanting it to be Holy Apostles.
 - iv. The consensus of the group was to continue to support the Hoppes while they are in the United States.
 - v. It was noted that while Holy Apostles budgeted \$1,000 per month for the Hoppes in 2023, the church did not cut any checks to them over the past nine months.
 - vi. **[MOTION]** by Peter Bell, seconded by Lena Theotikos]: To make a payment of \$9,000 of back support for the Hoppes.
 - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
 - vii. **[MOTION]** by Peter Bell, seconded by Val Dranias]: To support the Hoppes at \$1,000 per month while they are on their “home mission” in the United States through the end of December 2023.
 - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- 8. Old Business:
 - a. Mosaic Update: Val Dranias (2 mins)
 - i. The draft of the next edition has been completed.
 - ii. There have been eighty-eight opt-ins for mail.
 - iii. The issue will be sent out in early September.
 - b. Fundraiser with Comedian: Val Dranias (5 mins)
 - i. Basil has been booked for Feb. 24, 2024.
 - ii. Other venues aside from Holy Apostles are being examined in order to hold more people.
 - c. HA Foundation Update: Jim Maragos (7 mins)
 - i. It was reported that the committee is about two-thirds complete in the by-laws document.
 - ii. It's being looked into if Joan Berg can produce a final version of by-laws for the Parish Council by the September meeting, which would allow the council to examine it for a month.

- iii. Jim Maragos shared that the purpose of the foundation board is to support Holy Apostles Church.
 - iv. Other information on the makeup of the foundation board of directors and other mechanics were shared.
 - d. Employee Handbook Revision: Norm Pomrening (2 mins)
 - i. Emilia Linardakis is working on finishing up the employee handbook for the church.
 - ii. Vanessa Clohessy is working on the legal considerations that apply.
 - e. Website Update: Father Georgiou (15 mins)
 - i. The new draft version of the website has been shared with the Parish Council, ministry leaders, and many other members of the church.
 - ii. Alexa Cussick has been working with Fr. Nicholas and the website designer and will be the one to maintain the site in the future.
 - iii. It was shared that various points of feedback were received and being taken into consideration for the final product.
- 9. New Business:
 - a. Emergency Contact: Sandy Pihos (3 mins)
 - i. It was shared that there is no explicit emergency contact information on the church voicemail messages, but both priests' voicemails do say in the case of an emergency dial their cell phone number, which is provided in the message.
 - ii. It was suggested there is a prompt for emergency contact for the priests in the case of a pastoral emergency.
 - b. Parish Council & Treasurer Vacancy: Norm Pomrening (5 mins)
 - i. It was noted that Lou Kafkes is resigning from the parish council and that the vacancy will need to be addressed since he will be filling the parish administrator position.
 - ii. Norm is working on a solution and shared some possible ideas and requested feedback.
 - iii. **[MOTION]** by Jim Maragos, seconded by Sandy Pihos]: To nominate Steve Milak to move from Secretary to Treasurer effective September 1st.
 - 1. Nominee accepts.
 - 2. Motion passes.
 - iv. **[MOTION]** by Sandy Pihos, seconded by George Chechopoulos]: To nominate Val Dranias to fill the Secretary position.
 - 1. Nominee accepts.
 - 2. Motion passes.
 - c. Parish Assembly: Norm Pomrening (2 mins)
 - i. In order to accommodate timing of foundation by-laws review and approval the Parish Assembly will be on Sunday, October 22, 2023.
 - d. 2024 Budget Process & Timing: Norm Pomrening (3 mins)
 - i. The finance committee will prepare the budget. A meeting will be held where the budget is reviewed and approved by the parish council. After

approval the budget will be presented at the parish assembly meeting on October 22.

- e. Candles
 - i. It was shared that the taper candles are burning messily.
 - ii. Fr. George will follow up with the vendor.
 - f. Moving the communication specialist and youth director to a salary position: Fr. Nicholas
 - i. It was asked that the Parish Council consider combining the communication specialist and youth director positions into one full time salaried position.
10. Next Meeting: 9/21 (1 min)
11. Key Dates: (1 min)
- a. Start of Greek School - 9/7
 - b. Start of Sunday School - 9/10
 - c. Ministry Fair - 9/10
 - d. Clergy-Laity - 10/11 - 10/13
 - e. Stewardship Sunday - 11/19
12. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou (2 mins)
13. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening (1 min)
- a. **[MOTION** by George Chechopoulos, seconded by Patty Pappas]: To adjourn the meeting at 10:28pm.