

**HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**9/21/23 @ 7:30 PM**

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening at 7:32 pm
2. Attendance: Absent-Jim Maragos; Guests-Joan Berg, Jim Sotirakos, Greg Arzoumanidis (members of the Foundation Committee-present only for Foundation Update)
3. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
4. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
5. Old Business - proposed HA Foundation Update: Joan Berg
  - a. Patty Pappas presented a brief history of the proposed HA Foundation
  - b. Joan Berg, our pro bono legal advisor to the Foundation Committee, presented drafts of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Foundation
  - c. A Q & A session will be held for the Parish Council on October 3, to review and make any additions or corrections to the documents before being presented to the Parish Assembly for approval on 10/22
6. Approval of August 2023 Minutes: Val Dranias
  - a. N. Kirkeles moved to approve the minutes, L Theotikos seconded. unanimously approved
7. Correspondence: Val Dranias – Thank you from the Brandows for our support of their missionary work in Central America; invitation to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Fr. S. Demetriou from Assumption-Homer Glen, Info from St. Iakovos Retreat Center about rental opportunities.
8. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos –presented a brief resource guide for Orthodox Christians on Orthodox Evangelism: asked the PC to learn from the points presented in the article,
9. Ministries
  - a. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke
    - i. Annual Roof Inspection-will receive the report in a week
    - ii. Church Drawings-have been professionally scanned to pdf. They will have a digital home and will be printed to have on file
    - iii. Shades for MPR-there will be 2 shades per opening (one a blackout and one for daylight). The cost will be approximately \$4000.
    - iv. Painting MPR-looking at installing a commercial wall covering below the chair rail and removing wallpaper on the west wall and then painting.
      1. C. Pepke moved to do the work on the west wall and beneath the chair rail at a cost of 25%-30% above the original estimate for the MPR (without these additions). B. Leider seconded. Passed – 2 opposed

- v. Landscaping-in the design process again. New designer and bids. Will have the design for next PC meeting. The hope is to have it done by Pascha.
  - vi. Design Group – an Esthetics or Design Group is being formed to help with decisions concerning the physical esthetics of the Church.
  - vii. There are about 100 projects to be completed of those 60 are maintenance and 30-40 are capital projects.
- b. Finance: Steve Milak
- i. The Operating account cash balance has increased by \$83,659, year-to-date. As of 8/31, the total Operating account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest is \$775,152.
  - ii. The Capital account cash balance has increased by \$54,513 year-to-date. This positive flow is due to a \$60,000 transfer of Dinner Dance surplus revenues from the Operating to Capital account in August. As of 8/31, the total Capital account cash balance, including monies parked to earn higher rates of interest is \$417,080.
  - iii. The church's total operating and capital cash balance as of 8/31 is \$1,192,232.
  - iv. Although our YTD Net Revenue is \$83,663, our goal of finishing the year ahead of budget will be challenging, as our monthly expenses will easily outpace our revenues from now until the end of the year.
  - v. In general, the books were clean for August
  - vi. Note on having to catch up on Fr. Nicholas health insurance payment. Cloud storage of all budget reports in church's Google Workspace
- c. Technology: Steve Milak
- i. Purchased and setup a new laptop for Fr. Nicholas.
  - ii. Outsource Solution Group is using a new backup provider, Veeam; verified backed up data will remain in the U.S.
  - iii. WiFi
    - 1. Equipment has arrived; need to set aside time for installation.
  - iv. MP Room A/V
    - 1. Started requirements gathering of the church's need, which will be used to fit to an appropriate solution with contractors.
  - v. HARC Point of Sale System
    - 1. S. Milak moved to spend up to \$2000 and \$50 a month service fee on a new point of sale system for HARC. L. Theotikos seconded. Unanimously approved
- d. Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos
- i. Stewardship Data in comparison to 2022

1. The 612 YTD pledges are 3% less than the 633 we had received by the end of August 2022. We have achieved 82% of our Stewardship Goal of 750 pledges.
  2. \$752K pledged is more than the \$625K we had received by the end of August 2022. We have achieved 66% of our goal to fund our entire operating budget through pledges.
  3. \$656K collected is 4% more than the \$633K received by the end of August 2022.
  4. Median pledge is \$600 which is equal to the August 2022 median pledge.
  5. Average pledge of \$1,229 is 7% more than the \$1,146 YTD August 2022 average pledge.
- ii. Tailgate Report
1. Approximately 120 people attended. They were an enthusiastic crowd. Lots of good food.
  2. Special thank you to Eleni Chechopoulos for baking and donating the fantastic dessert table.
  3. Overall gross income was \$6,035. After expenses and prize payouts, profit is estimated to be below \$3,000.
  4. Thank you to Elaine Katziotis, Cindy Clark and Nick Kirkeles for planning and chairing the event.
- iii. Welcoming
1. Ministry Fair went well – looking to some improvements for next year,
  2. Emily Rehn is looking for young adults who would be willing to be introduced to young adults who are visiting our church.
  3. Considering a bingo night after January 1.
  4. Need ideas for 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Serve Days
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos
- i. Usher Interns from SS have started. They will be with us every other Sunday. George will remind us in his weekly email.
- f. Greek School: Lena Theotikos
- i. Tuition will amount to \$88,000. \$10,000 more than expected.
  - ii. Teachers will undergo the Youth Protection training of the Archdiocese
  - iii. Parents and students will be required to sign a code of conduct. Patty Pappas is creating the document
  - iv. First grade has 21 students so the class will be split and Zoe will take the second class,
  - v. L. Theotikos moved that we pay Zoe for the year as a teacher in addition to her Principal's salary. B. Leider seconded. Unanimously approved

- g. Missions: Peter Bell
  - i. Thank you from the Brandows.

#### 10. Old Business:

- a. Employee Handbook Revision: Emilia Linardakis and Sandy Pihos
  - i. Changes made and the Handbook is to be approved at the next PC meeting.
- b. Mosaic Update: Val Dranias
  - i. First issue out. Mailing was delayed because we didn't have enough for bulk mailing and had to be sent first class that we needed to pay for upfront. We have enough (200) for bulk mailing from now on.
- c. Comedian: Val Dranias
  - i. V. Dranias moved that we hold the event scheduled for 2/24/24 with Basile at the Hinsdale Community House with the cost not to exceed \$1350. L. Theotikos seconded. Unanimously approved.
- d. Bronze Welcome Sign: Sandy Pihos
  - i. The sign will be 44 X 20 at a cost of \$4,418
  - ii. N. Kirkeles moved that we purchase the sign at a cost not to exceed \$4500. V. Dranias seconded. Unanimously approved.
- e. Website Update: Father Georgiou
  - i. Checked with Nicole Dahdal, a professional website developer, on any changes needed to the new website.
  - ii. Some were made and Nicole signed off on it.
  - iii. Once we have the new pictures, it's good to go

#### 11. New Business:

- a. Formation of Interior Design Ministry: Norm Pomrening
  - i. Message will be sent to the congregation for volunteers.
- b. Parish Council Nominations: Norm Pomrening
  - i. T. Chiganos nominated both candidates, Andrew Kraulus and Jim Clohessy.
  - ii. Secret ballot took place.
  - iii. Andrew Kraulus is our new PC member.
- c. Confidentially Policy: Sandy Pihos
  - i. PC was reminded that discussions should not be taken outside of the meeting especially concerning individuals. Careful what we say about people. There is a lack of trust that PC members will keep things confidential.
- d. Zoom Account for HA: Emilia Linardakis
  - i. E. Linardakis moved to purchase a Zoom account for the Parish Council. Sandy Pihos seconded. Unanimously approved
- e. Request for use of the MPR
  - ii. Spero Demakis asked for approval that the AHEPA District Convention be held at HA in our MPR. No action was taken.

- f. Special Meetings – 10/3 for Foundation documents and TBD for Budget Approval
- g. Youth Basketball – N. Kirkeles moved that \$2000 be added to the basketball budget because of an additional team, practice gym rental and uniforms. L. Theotikos seconded. Unanimously approved.
- h. Next Meeting: 10/19
- i. Key Dates:
  - a. Clergy-Laity – 10/11 – 10/13
  - b. Fashion Show – 10/21
  - c. Parish Assembly – 10/22
  - d. Stewardship Sunday – 11/19
- j. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou
- k. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 10:10 pm.