


Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2025 @ 7:30PM

Attendees:

- Fr. George
- Fr. Nicholas
- Jim Maragos
- Sandy Pihos
- George Antonopoulos
- Peter Bell
- Lou Kafkes
- Ted Dres
- Chris Pepke
- Val Vourlos
- Mike Parafink
- Norm Pomrening
- Terry Chiganos
- Steve Milak

1. Call to Order: Jim Maragos (1 min)
2. Opening Prayer: Father George (2 min)
3. Recite Mission Statement: rotate (1 min)
“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 (II Corinthians 5:7) Nicole O. George, Bill, Patty*”
4. Approval of Minutes: Steve Milak(2 min)
 - MOTION(Steve, Sandy): To approve the minutes from the April Parish Council meeting.
 1. PASSED
5. Correspondence: Jim Maragos (5 min)
 - Thank you note from Eleni Geanon for the Holy Week bonus
 - Received statement from Vanessa’s Clohessy’s firm indicating she is not billing for services
 - Athenian foods soliciting for business
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father George (10 min)
 - Fr. George shared a Pastristix film on the Ascension:
 1.  The Ascension Icon
7. Ministries
 - a. Finance: George Antonopoulos (5 min) prior written report
 1. George A. read out the April Financial Report, focusing on cash balances in capital and operating categories.
 2. Jim M. shared that the Holy Week totals came in at \$35k.

- a. Lou clarified that the amount is net of the amounts donated to IOCC and HCHC.
 - 3. George shared that he is working on the Allocation Report and that the church will file for a 1 week extension to work out some open questions.
- a. Stewardship: Sandy Pihos (5 min) prior written report
 - 1. Sandy P. read out the stewardship report.
 - a. Shared that we are slightly below where we'd want to be, but tracking close year over year.
- a. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke (5 min)
 - 1. No report for this meeting.
- a. Ushering: Ted Dres (3 min.) Holy Week Review and Father Nicholas (4 min)
 - 1. Ted D. shared that in his opinion Holy Week ushering operations went smoothly.
 - 2. Fr. Nicholas credited Dr. Bell with the sheets he prepared to organize the Parish Council.
 - 3. Fr. Nicholas emphasized going back by the altar to check-in with the priests to see if there are any last minute changes.
 - 4. Sandy P. emphasized that the UIC must read the playbooks ahead of time and to be sure to check-in with the priest as Fr. Nicholas mentioned.
 - 5. Other pain points and positive affirmations were discussed.

1. Old Business

- a. Church Picnic Sunday June 1 : Sandy? (5 min)
 - 1. Sandy P. reported that the picnic is very well organized.
 - 2. The food will be served from inside the building this year.
 - a. Rationale is a more streamlined and better quality food experience.
 - 3. It was reported that many didn't realize the picnic was June 1st this year; to mitigate advertising was done via the bulletin and other channels.
 - 4. Fr. George asked for clarification on the flow from the end of liturgy until the start of the picnic, noting it is also graduate Sunday.
 - a. Sandy will touch base with Mike to coordinate logistics and inform Fr. George how things will flow.
- a. Front office Associate position Sandy Pihos (2 min)
 - 1. Sandy P. reported that the committee has interviewed four people.
 - 2. No candidate has been found.
 - 3. The committee is working on modifying their approach to improve the pipeline of candidates.
- b. Lemus janitorial Contract: Jim Maragos/Lou Kafkes Previous motion on 1/16/25 was to negotiate a new contract with a 6% raise for this year and 3% thereafter
 - 1. Lou reported that the contract is ready for execution and not another review.
 - 2. Lots of discussion ensued on whether, based on the motion from the previous meeting, the contract could be executed or whether it would need to be approved.
 - 3. The motion from the January meeting was read indicating it was for a "negotiated" contract.

- a. Based on this, it seemed well to the council that the contract could move forward.
 - c. Greek School contracts: Nicole Ostendorf
 - 1. Zoe is working on collecting the new contracts of the teachers.
 - d. Youth Worker Training report: Father George
 - 1. Shared that there were 3 individuals that were non-compliant.
 - a. 2 are working towards compliance
 - b. 1 individual is unknown
 - 2. Two people from the youth workers that have not registered; Lou is working on informing them of the requirement.
 - 3. Eight others will soon fall out of compliance due to hitting the 1 year expiration.
 - e. Cemetery plots: Sandy (2 min)
 - 1. Sandy shared the submitted cemetery report.
 - 2. Sandy shared that it appears new interest is being generated in purchasing the remaining plots.
- 2. New Business
 - a. IOCC May 8th Dinner report: Jim Maragos 10 people attended
 - a. May 18 Father Ted Poteres Retirement Dinner
 - 1. 16 parishioners are planning to attend.
 - b. May 18th report: Jim Maragos
 - c. Fanari Camp donation: Sandy (5 min)
 - 1. MOTION (Sandy, Val): To donate \$500 and directly purchase items needed by Fanari Camp from their Amazon Wish List to facilitate their activities.
 - d. Thank you to Sandy Pihos for both coffee hours planning and all for helping and to Alexa for the brochure and Steven Milak for the Power Point that were prepared for the Assembly.
 - e. Mission Team Chicago
 - 1. MOTION(Dr. Bell, Sandy): To donate \$320 to buy a table for the Mission Team Chicago dinner.
- 3. Next Regular Meeting: June 19, 2025 @ 7:30pm
- 4. Key Dates:
 - 1. Sunday May 18th, Fr. Poteres Retirement dinner
 - 2. Monday May 19 Foundation /Stewardship presentation by Dave McGowan 7 PM
 - 3. Tuesday May 20 Greek School Graduation 4:30 PM
 - 4. Saturday May 24 Jr. Olympics at Sts. Constantine and Helen
 - 5. Tuesday May 27 Apodosis Men's Club dinner for Parish following evening services
 - 6. Sunday June 1st, Graduate Sunday/Church Picnic
 - 7. Saturday June 14 5K Run and Walk
 - 8. Monday June 9 -Friday June 13 Vacation Bible School
 - 9. Sunday June 29 Church Name Day vespers
 - 10. Monday June 30 Church Name Day
 - 11. Church Golf Outing Monday July 7. Willow Crest golf club at the Oakbrook Hills Hilton
- 11. Closing Prayer: Father Nicholas (2 min)
- 12. Adjournment: Jim Maragos (1 min)