

Holy Apostles Parish Council Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2025 @ 7:30PM

Attendees:

- Fr. George ✗ (*Sabbatical*)
- Fr. Nicholas ✓
- Jim Maragos ✓
- Sandy Pihos ✓
- George Antonopoulos ✓
- Peter Bell ✓
- Lou Kafkes ✓
- Ted Dres ✓
- Chris Pepke ✓
- Val Vourlos ✓
- Mike Parafink ✓
- Norm Pomrening ✓
- Terry Chiganos ✓
- Bill Leider ✓
- Mike Thiakos ✓
- Nicole Voelz ✓
- Nicole Ostendorf ✓
- Steve Milak ✓

1. Call to order: Jim Maragos (1 min)
2. Opening Prayer : Father Nicholas (2 min)
3. Recite Mission Statement: (2 min) rotate Nicole O, George, Bill, Patty, Val...
 - a. "The Mission of the 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)
4. Approval of Minutes: Steve Milak (2 min)
 - a. **MOTION** (Steve, Sandy): To approve the minutes from the July meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.
5. Correspondence : Jim Maragos (5 min)
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Nicholas (10 min)
 - a. Fr. Nicholas shared the good news on Fr. George's daughter Evie having her baby and that Dean Theophilos is getting ordained to the diaconate.
 - b. Fr. Nicholas shared a handout on the Dormition of the Theotokos
7. Ministries
 - a. Financial report: George Antonopoulos (5 min)
 - i. July statements were not received in time to do an analysis
 - ii. However, an analysis was done based on the June sheet

1. A profit is shown
 2. Stewardship was noted to be aggressive and that we are likely to come under goal, which will eat up the profit
 3. Missions ministry is on pace to end the year within budget
 4. B&G is over budget as of June
 5. Follow up will be done to see what the plan is over the coming months
 6. Goal of operating is to break even
 7. More fundraising for capital projects will need to be done for next year
- iii. Progress report for sales tax exemption
1. Nothing mentioned on this
- b. Stewardship: Sandy Pihos (3 min) prior written report
- i. Sandy delivered the stewardship report:

Metric	Jul 2025 YTD	Jul 2024 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	603	628	-4%
Total Pledged	\$ 789,322	\$ 773,410	2%
Amount Collected	\$ 675,658	\$ 677,006	0%
Median Pledge	\$ 600	\$ 600	0%
Average Pledge	\$ 1,309	\$ 1,232	6%

- c. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke (5 min)
- ii. Front brick by the solea has been repaired
 - iii. Met with an architect to finish the last points of the office remodel
 - iv. Met with a lighting designer to go over the lighting design project
 - v. Chris shared a plumbing breakage in the men's bathroom due to galvanized piping in the church reaching end of life
 1. Water leaked through the wall down into the basement
 2. This is an unbudgeted work item
 3. Chris asked for guidance from the council - should a quick patch be done or a correct solution?
 - a. Decision is to move forward with a patch from the maintenance budget
 - b. Chris will follow up with estimates for remodeling the two bathrooms
 - vi. Lightning struck the building that blew the compressor and motor on an A/C unit powering the multi-purpose room.
 1. This has been repaired.
- d. Ushering report: Ted Dres (3 min): Jim Maragos (3 min)
- vii. Ushering schedule is 90% complete
 - viii. Ted shared there are many services in the coming months
 - ix. All parish council members need to sign up for services
 - x. Guidelines for basket collections in church

1. Coordination needs to be done with the priests to know what services to have and not have baskets
- c. Technology report: Steve Milak (2 min)
 - i. No objections to re-up the contract for support hours at a cost of \$3100
8. Old Business
 - a. Election of 2 Delegates to the 11/5-11/6 Metropolis Clergy/Laity Assembly in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. We need to announce this to the parish in the next month so that they can be elected at the Fall Parish assembly
 - i. Sandy is interested in being a delegate
 - b. Greek School report: Nicole O. (4 min)
 - i. Written report sent by Nicole email
 1. 83 students have been registered
 2. 14 new families
 3. 9 are members, 6 are not members
 4. Waiting for 7 families to register comprising 8 students
 - c. Front office associate report: Sandy Pihos (5 min)
 - i. MOTION (Sandy/Bill) to be considered in the executive session. Motion was approved unanimously.
 - d. Chapel Hills Cemetery Plot report: Lou Kafkes
 - i. Patty and Lou met with Chapel Hill cemetery representatives to review HA plot ownership, recent sales, and discuss protocol for future plot sales.
 - ii. After a recent sale, the church is down to 32 plots remaining
 - e. Youth Worker Protection Training report: None at this time
9. New Business
 - a. Bylaws Committee Meeting Tuesday September 2 at 7:00 PM:
 - i. Terry Chiganos has consented to be chair.
 - b. Finance Committee to start work on the 2026 Budget on Monday August 25 7:00 PM
 - c. Fundraising for B&G projects: Sandy/Chris (5 min)
 - i. Committee met and started discussions on how they want to approach
 - ii. Another meeting will be forthcoming
 - d. Parish Directory: Sandy (3 min)
 - i. Initiatives are taking place to line up a new vendor
 - e. SIRC Update
 - i. Jim Maragos shared the summary of the metropolis level meetings from this past week
10. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday September 19, 7:30 PM
11. Key Dates to remember:
 - a. Sunday September 7 Ministry Fair after Church
 - b. Saturday October 18 Philoptochos Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon
 - c. Sunday October 19 Fall Parish Assembly after church
 - d. Sunday October 26 Chicago Bears Watch Party; Youth Flag Football
 - e. November 5-6, 2025 Metropolis Clergy/Laity Assembly (Rolling Meadows, IL)
12. Closing Prayer: Father Nicholas (2 min)

13. Motion to adjourn: Jim Maragos(1 min)
14. EXECUTIVE SESSION to follow regular meeting

Fr. George Dokos

James Maragos, Parish Council President

Patty Pappas, Parish Council Secretary