

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
4/18/24 @ 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening at 7:30 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Father Georgiou
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of Minutes: Val Dranias – Jim Maragos moved to accept the minutes of 3/21/24 and Patty Pappas seconded. Unanimous approval.
5. Correspondence: Val Dranias – Thank you from Westchester Food Pantry for our donation of \$800 from our Trivia Night; Thank you from Marina Dimas for our \$1000 donation for non-alcoholic beverages for YAL Chicago Conference (she included pics); Request for a donation from the Westchester Fire Department for student materials for Westchester students created by the National Fire Safety Council. Nick Kirkeles moved that we donate \$300 to provide materials for 100 students, Jim Maragos seconded. Unanimous approval; Letter from Metropolitan Nathanael expressing his disapproval of our not submitting a proposal for the new Metropolis Center on our property and not notifying him of our non-participation. Norm has responded to His Eminence.
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Georgiou – Father Nicholas presented chapter 22 of *Lenten Spring* by Thomas Hopko for discussion. It discussed the lust for power. The power and the glory are to obey God and believe that power is fulfilled in meekness, and authority in service.
7. Ministries
 - a. Finance: Steve Milak
 - i. Treasurer's Report – total cash in Capital and Operating Accounts as of 3/31/24 is \$1,326,233.15.
 - b. Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos
 - i. Stewardship Report for March
 1. Our 482 YTD pledges are 1% more than the 479 we had by the end of March 2023.
 2. Our 4652K pledged is 2% more than the \$642K we had received by the end of March 2023.
 3. Our 4477K collected is 4% more than the \$461K we had received by the end of March 2023.
 4. Our median pledge is \$700, 12% less than the \$800 YTD March 2023 median pledge.
 5. Our average pledge of \$1,353 is 1% more than the \$1,340 YTD March 2023 average pledge.
 - ii. Stewardship/Welcoming Committee Meeting Report
 1. June 29 Fifth Saturday Serve project will be Operation Backpack with Philoptochos. Looking for schools that would benefit from the program.

2. August 31 Fifth Saturday Serve will activity kits for Lurie Children's Center, Westchester.
 3. Spring Fest is on the calendar for Saturday, May 18.
 4. The 5K run will be June 15 at 8:30 am. The proceeds will go to Lurie's of Westchester with the approval of the Missions Committee.
 5. White Sox Greek Heritage Night is Thursday, June 6. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 26.
 6. The Ministry Booklet has been emailed to the Stewardship and Welcome Committee for preview. It will also be mailed out to Ministry chairs for review of their descriptions. Getting printing quotes for color copies. This will be an asset for the Ministry Fair in September
- c. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke
- i. A/C Fence – Chris Pepke moved that we construct a brick fence to enclose the AC, Sandy Pihos seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - ii. A/C Progress Update
 1. Economizer parts have been ordered.
 2. System taken care of with the installers – now right size.
 - iii. Advertising B&G Projects –looking to put info into the Mosaic and Weekly News.
 - iv. Garbage Company Transition – signing contract with Lakeshore Recycling.
 - v. Thank you to Chris from Bill Leider for his hard work.
- d. Technology: Steve Milak
- i. Chris Pepke and Steve Milak fixed a network issue.
 - ii. New Wi-Fi in MPR.
 - iii. We should receive a technology grant by the end of May.
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos
- i. Locking Up Church – Usher in charge must make sure to check all doors and windows, plus make sure that everyone is out of the church before setting alarm.
 - ii. Trays on Palm Sunday, Good Friday & Resurrection Services
 1. Palm Sunday – 1. Holy Apostles; 2. IOCC; 3. Tray in narthex for flowers
 2. Good Friday – 1. Holy Apostles; 2. Holy Cross
 3. Resurrection – 1. Holy Apostles; 2. Holy Apostles
 - iii. Digital Usher Schedule – please check
- f. Greek School: Lena Theotikos
- i. Raises – Lena Theotikos moved to accept the raises proposed for the Greek School teachers and principal; Nick Kirkeles seconded. Unanimous approval.

- ii. New furniture needed – Updates in furniture for the classrooms will cost \$4200. Coordination with Sunday School is needed.
 - iii. Reviews of Greek School teachers were completed. All were rated *highly effective* and one *effective*.
 - iv. Lena Theotikos moved that tuition for 2024-25 school year be the same for members and non-members. It will be raised to \$950 for 1 child, \$850 for the second child, \$750 for the third child. Val Dranias seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - v. Motion to budget up to \$800 for parade float. Unanimous approval.
 - vi. Motion to budget up to \$2000 for furniture needs – tabled.
 - g. Missions: Norm Pomrening
 - i. Feed6 – 1/11/24
 - ii. Project Mexico – James Clohessy - Motion made by Steve Milak to fund up to \$3000 matching funds to what James collects for Project Mexico, Sandy Pihos seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - h. Young Adults: Chris Pepke
 - i. YAL Sox Game - YAL will have their own game.
 - ii. YAL Coffee Hour – successfully hosted a Coffee Hour.
 - iii. Size of YAL- currently 41 members.
 - iv. Telos – May 18 TELOS mentorship event. Panel of mentors. Event will be open to other churches in the Metropolis.
8. Old Business:
- a. Rewording of Prior Motion: Steve Milak
 - i. Steve Milak made the following motion on advice of counsel:
MOTION: To rescind the motion from the January PC meeting, "to increase Alexa Cussick's salary by \$290 a month to cover her health insurance", for the purpose of using accurate wording, and immediately replace it with a motion reading "to increase Alexa Cussick's compensation by \$290 a month for health insurance".
 Seconded by Bill Leider. Approved with 2 abstentions.
 - b. Altar Boy Robes: Father Georgiou: we are now working with a Romanian vestment maker.
 - c. Book Week Recap: Father Georgiou: MPR room was full for Sunday night's speaker. \$4,000 sold during the week.
9. New Business:
- a. Holy Week Overview: Nick Kirkeles
 - i. Step Through Week – Nick provided a Holy Week Ushering Protocol
 - ii. Kouvouklion – if weather permits we will be taking the portable kouvouklion outside,
 - iii. Candle Sales Responsibilities for 3 Good Friday Services, Holy Saturday, Resurrection, & Agape – Sandy Pihos has coordinated.

- iv. Outdoor Sound System Responsibilities – Steve Milak and George Zuales.
 - b. Goal of Shortening Parish Council Meetings: Norm Pomrening – Info out by email prior to the meeting. Can we do that?
 - c. Google Drive for Parish Council: Chris Pepke – Chris will set up.
10. Next Meeting: **Tuesday** 5/14
11. Key Dates:
- a. Holy Tuesday with HEMN – 4/30
 - b. Metropolis Oratorical Festival at HA – 5/11
 - c. 5K Race – 6/15
 - d. Clergy Laity – 6/30 thru 7/4
 - e. Golf Outing at Seven Bridges – 7/8
 - f. Picnic – 7/28
12. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou
13. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 9:40 pm

Not in attendance: Father Feorge Dokos, Peter Bell, Emilia Linardakis, Andrew Kraulos