

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2/15/24 @ 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening at 7:36 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of Minutes: Val Dranias – the minutes were amended to read: *The Parish Council removed the clergy from discussions of employee salaries. This is the response fo the Metropolis to their being asked to leave.* Unanimously approved.
5. Correspondence: Val Dranias – a note from Peter and Maria Lagios wishing us well with Feed6, thank you from the St. Iakovos Retreat Center for our \$5000 donation, a statement of contribution from The Outreach Program (Feed6) for our contribution of \$17,687, thank you from the OCCA for donations made at the Sanctity of Life service
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father George showed a video presentation by Father Theodore Dorrance on Change. Pt. 1 Being true to who we are as Orthodox Christians. Constant Repentance – as a parish and personally. The PC needs to lead by example. We need to move from an inward looking community to a missional parish. There should be a shift in priorities. Parish leaders both PC and Ministry, should attend the March 2 family retreat to learn more about this.
7. Ministries
 - a. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke (20 mins)
 - i. Landscape Bids Review/Approval = we have received 3 bids which are all over budget. They all mentioned that this was the best church landscape design that they've ever seen. Budget was \$60,000 including the landscape design (the landscape alone is coming in at \$60,000). Some can be phased in. Looking at \$100.00 to \$120,000 without donations.
 - ii. Utilities
 1. Gas Billing Update= we have a flat rate contract with Hudson Energy that is costing us more than if we just went with Nicor.
 2. Electric Billing Update – Similar situation to the gas. It's being investigated,
 3. Dumpster Contract-Wate Management is up 20%. Lakeshore Recycling would save us \$3000 per year. Close to pulling the trigger on this contract.
 - iii. TV's in Classrooms-Zoe wants to install 2 TV's in the classrooms and wants to split the cost of the installation since both Greek School and Sunday School will use them. Zoe got both TV's through a grant..
 - iv. Security Wiring/Installation of Intercom System
 - v. Capital Projects on Pause Due to Metro Center RFP

- vi. Update of Maintenance Items Completed – all in compliance. To install a video camera for all 3 offices.
- b. Finance: Steve Milak: Total of \$1,284,000 in the Operating and Capital Accounts combined. We are \$100,000 to the positive at this time. There was a 2% increase due to Fedd6 and Stewardship is up.
- c. Technology: Steve Milak
 - i. Wifi Install in the 3 offices is completed and some other maintenance has been done. Steve is working on a \$10,000 grant and also working with the Hellenic Foundation on a grant.
 - ii. Lou needs some improvement in his office like another monitor, etc. Steve Milak made a motion to spend up to \$600 to improve Lou's workspace, Sandy Pihos seconded. Unanimously approved.
- d. Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos –
 - i. As of January 31, 2024 our pledges are up. Pledges collected up, median pledge is \$800 and our average pledge is \$1428.
 - ii. Wednesday, February 28 – Lenten Potluck Dinner and recipe exchange.
 - iii. March 30 is our first 5th Saturday Serve of the year. Katy is waiting for a response from the York Resource Center as to their needs.
 - iv. Sometime over Lent there will be a joint service project with Philoptochos and Missions to benefit BEDS PLUS in La Grange.
 - v. The Saturday Vesper potlucks continue to draw about 20 people.
 - vi. There were approximately 70 people in attendance at Trivia Night and we raised \$800 for the Westchester Food Pantry.
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos – looking to assign a PC member to the large candle sales during Holy Week.
- f. Greek School: Lena Theotikos-it's time to name our Greek School
- g. Missions: Peter Bell
 - i. Father Nicholas shared a book about the Divine Liturgy which has been translated into Korean with our donations. There is an acknowledgement to Holy Apostles on the title page.
 - ii. Hoppe & Brandow Donations – Peter Bell moved and Steve Milak seconded To renew the annual support for OCMC missionaries Nathan and Gabriel Hoppe at \$1000/month and for OCMC missionary Jesse Brandow at \$500/month, which was accounted for in the 2024 budget passed by the people at the Parish Assembly in October of 2023. Unanimously approved.
 - iii. Mac Luncheon Beneficiary – Peter Bell moved and Emilia Linardakis seconded That the proceeds of the Macaronatha luncheon go to the Albanian Orthodox Church as directed by the Hoppes Unanimously approved.

- h. Young Adults: Chris Pepke: YAI and Telos will be hosting a coffee hour. There will be YAL event with Sts. Peter and Paul, looking to hold one event a month

8. Old Business:

- a. Foundation Update: Patty Pappas:
 - i. They have been negotiating with the general counsel of the GOA. They are down to 1 or 2 points. Compromise reached that the Foundation can accept donations of real estate but cannot have proceeds from the sale of parish owned real estate.
 - ii. GOA attorney compromise – 2 independent directors, 4 HA directors, 3 ex officio members (priest, PC president, PC treasurer) GOA wants the ex-officio members to vote. We see a conflict of interest in this.
 - iii. Final Big Issue – removal of a board of director member. GOA wants the Metropolitan to remove a director at will. We want a more democratic way of removing fa dire3cotr.
- b. Comedian Update: Val Dranias: Tickets are selling. Hoping to have over 200 in attendance. Committees ready for baking and set up. Hope to clear between \$8000 to \$10,000 for the church.
- c. Cemetery Plot Update: Patty Pappas - 44 plots (over half) have been to be swapped. Doing it legally through quick claim deeds. Looking to create a pamphlet for marketing and a set of Internal Rules.
- d. Mac Luncheon Update: Sandy Pihos and Emilia Linardakis chairing.
 - i. Nick Kirkeles will be out of town,. Norm asked Mark Vourlos to head the kitchen.
 - ii. St. Patrick's Day theme
 - iii. Pc members – all hands on deck for set up and for serving, etc the day of
 - iv. 3 ways to make reservation – online, after church on Sundays and calling Sandy
- e. Metropolis Center Update: Norm Pomrening & Chris Pepke
 - i. Chris and Norm presented 2 options for the possibility of the Metropolis Center here at Holy Apostles
 - ii. Should we move forward with the RFP? The Metropolis has \$3.2 million to contribute but the costs would be a minimum of \$10 million. Questions about the cost plus the loss of parking on our site.
 - iii. Peter Bell moved and Patty Pappas seconded to continue to explore this proposal and submit to the Metropolis. Yes-4 No-5 Motion failed.
- f. Holy Apostles Anniversary Celebration: Norm Pomrening – looking to up to 500 in attendance. Month it should occur. Looking at a cost neutral luncheon to allow more parishioners to attend.
- g. Parishioner Directory: Norm PomreningL still exploring the possibility

9. New Business:

- a. YAL Conference Donation: Chris Pepke moved and Lena Theotikos seconded to donate \$1000 to YAL for the purchase of non-alcoholic beverages for the Conference. Unanimously approved.
- b. Parish Assembly Prep: Norm Pomrening: will be Sunday, April 14. Info to be sent out early to shorten the length of the meeting.
- c. Digital Candle Payment: Chris Pepke: George Chechopoulos ill meet with Presvytera Michelle to learn how to do it. PC members will then be trained on how to use it.
- d. Communications: Sandy Pihos brought forth concerns about our internal communications. Who is to follow through on decisions made bu the PC and how are they to be notified. It is a problem. We also need the emergency phone number added to the voicemail that we discussed months ago. Also, Alexa needs a phone line where messages can be left for her. Why hasn't a Zoom account been purchased for the church? That was also voted on months ago.
- e. Father Nicholas moved to donate \$1000 to Presvytera Pearl Ann Bithos in memory of Father Steve. Emilia Linarakis seconded. Unanimously approed.

10. Next Meeting: 3/21 (1 min)

11. Key Dates: (1 min)

- a. Basile Comedy – 2/24
- b. Parish Retreat – 3/2
- c. Greek School Dinner Dance – 3/16
- d. Mac Luncheon – 3/17
- e. Ministry Leaders Retreat – 4/6
- f. Parish Assembly – 4/14
- g. HA Oratorical Festival – 4/14
- h. Metropolis Oratorical Festival at HA – 5/11

12. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou

13. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 10:10 pm