

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
1/18/24 @ 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening at 7:33 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of December 2023 Minutes: Val Dranias – Steve Milak moved to accept the minutes, Jim Maragos seconded the motion. Unanimously approved
5. Correspondence: Val Dranias – Thank yous from Father Nicholas, Deacon Perry, Nick Paloumpis for Christmas gifts; from the James Kyriaz family for memorial flowers; for donations from Loyola Medicine, AOK, The Outreach Program
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos – a discussion on *Phronema the Lifeblood of Orthodoxy* by Thomas Joseph and Peter Schweitzer
7. Ministries
 - a. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke
 - i. Landscape – Chris presented the landscape plan
 1. The Parish Assembly approved \$60,000 a - \$7,000 used for design
 2. Maintenance plan and punch list may be an additional \$ 2K
 3. 2 phases – Church and then the perimeter/property line
 4. Donors for monument sign and cross – we will be asking for donation of the landscape around them
 5. Removal of existing landscape – all at once including around the AC
 - a. 17 week process to get variance (more cost effective)
 6. Consensus of the Parish Council to go forward and get bids
 - b. Finance: Steve Milak – Cash total of \$1,146,000 in operating and capital accounts
 - c. Technology: Steve Milak – had quarterly meeting with vendor (OSC); \$300 emergency extension for WiFi
 - d. Stewardship & Welcoming:
 - i. Stewardship Data – Norm reported that money received and/or pledged has improved but a decline in number of stewards. We are essentially flat on the number of stewards
 - ii. Pledged and received has gone up
 - iii. Concern on numbers going down
 - iv. Suggested uses of the POS system to market our church and religion
 - v. Suggested Open House for Westchester
 - e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos – discussion on the schedule
 - f. Greek School: Lena Theotikos – Zoe will be performing teacher evaluations; the Dinner Dance is 3/16
 - g. Missions: Norm Pomrening (3 mins)

- i. Feed6 – on Saturday; number of volunteers and donations are fine
 - ii. AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament Donation – no motion
 - h. Telos: Chris Pepke
 - i. Coffee Hour this Sunday; young adults looking for better grade of coffee to be served at Coffee Hour – suggesting either Starbucks or Caribou
 - ii. Mentorship Program beginning – Deacon Perry has more information
- 8. Old Business:
 - a. Foundation Update: Jim Maragos – last Wednesday the GOA lawyer sent email itemizing changes that the archdiocese is requesting
 - i. No sale of parish property with money to the Foundation
 - ii. No independent directors – only Greek Orthodox
 - iii. Ex officio – PC President and Treasurer and Priest in attendance at every meeting of the Board of Directors
 - iv. Stricter requirements
 - v. Simple majority rather than 75% needed to remove a Director
 - vi. Motion made to respectfully disagree with the GOA about independent directors and the Foundation’s ability to own property. Unanimously approved
 - b. Comedian Update: Val Dranias
 - i. Ticket sales and Playbill donations have begun; Committee has met and have delegated jobs; Baking will occur on 2/20; setup will be on 2/23 and volunteers will report at 5:00 pm on 2/24; Nick Kirkeles volunteered to run the bar
 - c. Cemetery Plot Update: Norm Pomrening – Nick Kirkeles said that deeds should have a site plan with the grave numbers
 - d. Performance Appraisals: Father George reported that the Performance Appraisals have been completed.
- 9. New Business:
 - a. Discussion of salaries:
 - i. Steve Milak reported that Bishop Timothy stated that during discussions on employee salaries, the PC cannot ask the priest to leave the meeting
 - ii. Technically, the PC cannot ask the priests to leave during discussion of their salaries
 - iii. Steve Milak moved to increase Alexa Cussick’s salary by \$290 a month to cover her health insurance. Nick Kirkeles seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 – ayes, 2 – nays
 - iv. It was noted that the PC needs to fix Alexa’s contracts
 - b. Parish Council Term Limits: Norm Pomrening – the Metropolis is requiring term limits for PC members. This has already been addressed in our bylaws
 - c. Metropolis Center Update: Norm Pomrening

- i. Presented the Metropolis of Chicago Center RFP Guidelines
 - ii. Asked if we were interested
 - iii. Will revisit next meeting
- d. Holy Apostles Anniversary Celebration: Norm Pomrening
 - i. A New Year's Eve dinner dance to celebrate 65 years has been suggested
 - ii. A 65th Anniversary Luncheon has been suggested
 - iii. Revisit next month
- e. Parishioner Directory: Norm Pomrening – we usually do a new one every 5 years. Looking into it.
- f. Visitation before a funeral – Nick Kirkeles questioned why we only allowed ½ an hour for visitation before a funeral. The Fathers will discuss it.

10. Next Meeting: 2/15

11. Key Dates:

- a. Feed6 – 1/20
- b. Basile Comedy – 2/24
- c. Greek School Dinner Dance – 3/16
- d. Mac Luncheon – 3/17

12. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou

13. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 9:44 pm

Absent: George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Andrew Kraulos, Patty Pappas, Sandy Pihos