

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
6/13/24 @ 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of Minutes: Val Dranias – Sandy Pihos moved to approve the amended minutes; Bill Leider seconded. Unanimously approved.
5. Correspondence: Val Dranias - None
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos presented an article translated from Romanian on ***The Holy Ascension***. The emphasis centered around that “the faith of those who believed in Him was now summoned to heights where, as the Father’s equal, the Only Begotten Son is reached not by physical handling but by spiritual discernment.”
7. Ministries
 - a. Finance: Steve Milak reported that as of May 31, 2024 we have \$1,436,261 in the Operating and Capital accounts. Our Allocation Assessment was filled in with the numbers from our audit form. Our Expenditures were up by \$50,000. We are renewing our insurance. Forms, including the Youth Protection Form, are due by 6/25/24.
 - b. Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos – Our 569 YTD pledges are 2% more than the 558 that we had received by the end of May 2023. Our \$738K pledged is 2% more than the \$726K we had received by the end of May 2023. Our \$593K collected is 4% more than the \$572K we had received by the end of May, 2023. Our median pledge is \$600 and our average pledge is \$1,297. Stewardship Meeting – The spring planning event was great and they are hoping to do another parish beautification day in the fall. The next 5th Saturday Serve Day is June 29. Stewardship will partner with Philoptochos to fill 100-150 school backpacks with supplies to be donated to an underprivileged district. Stewardship would like to add a Stuffed Love session on Saturday, December 28. Stuffed Love makes heart shaped hand stitched pillows as a tangible symbol of hope to those in need. Connie will be sending out a final draft of the Ministry Booklet in June. She will be getting quotes from printers so that we will have the booklets for the September Ministry Fair on September 8. There are 86 people going to the White Sox game in June. The church 5K will be on Saturday, June 15 with proceeds going to the Philoxenia House.
 - c. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke
 - i. Annual Generator Inspection Complete – we will now have annual inspections.
 - ii. Landscape Project Update – we should receive the permit next week with the demo the following week. The planting should be done by mid-July.
 - iii. Date to Perform Solea Brick Repair – It will be done during the first week of July.
 - iv. General Maintenance Update – new sump pumps will be installed next week.
 - v. Shed Reorganization/Cleanup – will take about a month.
 - vi. Front Door Update – will be done in the fall.
 - vii. Capital Account has \$624,000, Chris advised us to start looking at what we need to budget for 2025.

- d. Technology: Steve Milak reported that we currently have an issue with Vanco. It is being addressed. Steve Milak moved that we authorize \$703 for the renewal of the firewall; Bill Leider seconded. Unanimously approved. He reported that the Google Docs training session went well.
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos presented the new schedule which goes to the end of the year.
- f. Missions: Peter Bell reminded us that the 5K is Saturday. James Clohessy was able to raise \$1500 for his Project Mexico trip which we will match as to our previous motion.
- g. Young Adults: Chris Pepke
 - i. YAL Update – while Steph Chiganos is in Greece, Leah is taking the lead.
 - ii. Telos Update – losing traction with interest.

8. Old Business:

- a. Foundation Update: Steve Milak reported that we've been waiting 46 days for a response from the GOA. There will be a Foundation Committee meeting in the next month to create a status report.
- b. Altar Boy Robes: Father Georgiou showed us the beautiful purple and gold sample that has been selected. There is a possibility that we may also be able to order red ones, too.
- c. Anniversary Luncheon: Val Dranias moved that the Ad Book proceeds should go to *the Preservation of our Beloved Church*; seconded by Bill Leider, After discussion, the motion was tabled and sent back to the committee.
- d. Review Task Listing: Andrew Kraulos presented his draft. Discussion was held on what it should include.
- e. Cemetery Plots: Patty Pappas reported that there has been a slow down on going forward. We're waiting for a response from Chapel Hill. They presented a very complicated new document.

9. New Business:

- a. HA Participation in Jr Olympics: Nick Kirkeles expressed his concern on the very small participation at the Jr. Olympics. We only sent 8 participants. It is a failure of our youth programs to get kids involved. We need an Athletic Director.
- b. Summer 2025 Sabbatical: Norm Pomrening reported on a request from Father George for Summer 2025. According to the UPR in Article 17, each parish is obligated to provide a 3 month sabbatical to a priest who has served 6 years at his parish. In 2021 the St. Mary's PC approved a sabbatical and the Metropolitan approved it. Covid kept Father George from taking the sabbatical. Father George looks to spend 3 weeks as priest at Ionian Village and then further study to be able to translate Byzantine Greek to English. George Chechopoulos moved that we should approve a 3 month sabbatical for Fr. George for the summer of 2025; Steve Milak seconded. Unanimously approved.
- c. Gmail Addresses: Norm Pomrening – send gmail addresses to Norm
- d. Ministry Lock Up Procedure: Norm Pomrening reported that guidelines for lock-up procedure will be disseminated to all ministry leaders and training provided. We will also need a ministry point of contact for each meeting.
- e. Directory: Norm Pomrening – we have 6 volunteers and will be moving forward.
- f. Picnic: Norm Pomrening – Andrew Kraulos will coordinate.

- g. Office Organization in 2025: Jim Maragos
 - i. Initial meeting scheduled for 6/24
 - h. Bonuses to Helen Geanon and Deacon Perry for Holy Week. Nick Kirkeles moved that we give them \$1500 each for their work during Holy Week; George Chechopoulos seconded. Unanimously approved.
10. Review of Actions Taken in this Meeting: Norm Pomrening
11. Next Meeting: 7/18
12. Key Dates:
- a. 5K Race – 6/15
 - b. Holy Apostles Vespers – 6/29
 - c. Holy Apostles Feast Day Liturgy – 6/30
 - d. Clergy Laity – 6/30 thru 7/4
 - e. Golf Outing at Seven Bridges – 7/8
 - f. Picnic – 7/28
 - g. 65th Anniversary Luncheon – 12/29
13. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou
14. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 9:27 pm

Absent – Emilia Linardakis, Lena Theotikos