

**Parish Council Meeting  
January 6, 2021  
Remote Zoom Meeting**

**Roll Call**

**Parish Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Nilda Salavachi, Christine Dardaris, Davit Jishkariani, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

**Clergy:** Father Dennis

**Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Wesley Hanson, Peter Ghicondey

**Guest:** [Albana Qendro](#)

**Meeting opened with prayer at 7:06pm**

**Secretary's Report**

Reem Tarazi presented the minutes from the December 2020 meeting. Christine Dardaris indicated an error (Bill Rubis not at last meeting). Minutes will be revised accordingly and resubmitted. Christine Dardaris moved to accept minutes and Davit Jishkariani seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)**

- \$2500 donation under capital improvement is from Jane Quinn. This is yearly donation for one of the windows in memory of Tom and Katherine Zoidis.
- True expenses for year are \$86,476 because a \$15,000.00 transfer from the checking account to the investment account is listed as an expense.
- \$2100 construction charge is for settled amount for final payment of front window painting and repair.
- Donna indicated \$30,000 transferred today from checking to investment account without formal board approval – it was discussed during the December meeting
- Zach Smith highlighted that we ended 2020 in great shape and drew attention to pledges exceeding budgeted amount, and generous Christmas donations thus far.
- \$10,443 collected in 2020 via square.
- Sergio Georgi reviewed history of balance between investment and checking account, but in 2020, both accounts have increased.
- Plan is to ask parishioners to sponsor windows to repay investment account, but this request delayed because of covid. Four people have expressed interest in sponsoring windows already in addition to Zoidis family sponsorship. Will revisit after COVID.
- Christine Dardaris stressed that appeal and Christmas letters brought in donations at end of year. Almost \$3300 collected at end of year for various reasons.
- In future, Sergio will connect special donation page to go along with fundraising campaign to assist treasury report.
- We collected \$25,800 via PayPal after fees in 2020.
- We made a \$150.00 donation to OCA – FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians) which was approved by Parish Council at the November meeting.
- If anyone wants details of investment report, Donna will provide.

- Discussion about having donors have options to incur fees with donations. Possible for PayPal but not Square. Steve Coraluzzi suggested considering switching vendors in future when we can show history of transaction but per Sergio need to balance fees and perks. We can revisit in future.

Reem Tarazi moved to accept the report, seconded by Sergio Georgi. Motion passed.

### **Father Dennis Report**

- Will bless water this Sunday for Theophany
- No in-person house blessings at this time; families can take water and bless own house. Fr. Dennis agreed to provide prayer that can be said by parishioners when they bless their homes.
- Philadelphia restrictions extended to 1/15; need to discuss next steps
- Nick Zoto passed away on 1/1; Donna will send info to parish; information shared about Nick's contribution to church and archdiocese

### **Chairperson Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)**

- Things have been running quite well at church. The crowds the past few weeks have been rather small. All Covid-19 protocols are being followed.
- Christmas decorations were taken down this past Sunday
- 2021 Calendars were delivered and have been at the candle stand for our parishioners. One request was received to mail the calendar – same done.
- Emailed the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy to everyone. A sign off sheet will be at church. Please sign when you attend church. Fr. Dennis stressed the importance of reviewing the summary to know reporting process/structure if accusation is made.
- Thank-you cards mailed to those who made Christmas donations

### **Sunday School Report (reported by Steve Coraluzzi)**

Sunday school COVID-related hiatus continues. About 6 families sent a Christmas message which is still on website. Others can still add a video.

### **Technology Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)**

Everything is archived on website from parish council and parish meetings from 2020. Third camera added for live stream. Booth for choir causes some challenge for streaming but working on it. Accounts set up on church server sent to Reem Tarazi, Zach Smith, and Christine Dardaris who were reminded to check access to the accounts. Sergio got new license for streaming software which gives other perks.

### **Old Business**

- Background checks: Christine Dardaris has access to server and will be emailing everyone the link to complete background check and will collect/maintain the checks. Still need from Zach, Davit, and those current council members whose checks are expiring. Per Donna, child abuse clearance only needed for Sunday school and priest and adults in altar but not other parish council members.

- Altar server robes: Fr. Dennis is moving forward; he has fabric and still needs lining and ribbon
- Sexual harassment policy: already discussed
- Church attendance policy review: Discussion about how we would proceed when city of Philadelphia lifts current restrictions. Many supported going back to having more members in church while maintaining safe environment. Donna brought up expectation of challenge getting parishioners back to church in future. Although churches exempt, council agreed to follow city guidelines and adjust when restrictions lifted by allowing more people in church. Choir will remain in loft, Fr. Dennis will proceed as is, and no coffee hour. Information about changes in restrictions will be communicated to parish.
- Icon auction: Council reviewed notice prepared by Donna and suggested minor revisions. Council considered idea of having in person auction for remaining icons perhaps outdoors; consider Palm Sunday for this (April 25). Discussion about whether to reactivate icons, to have auction in person, etc. Board decided to proceed with plan to give people option to keep icons from last year for same or increased bid and will revisit discussion about in person auction once we know how many icons we have to auction and consider pandemic status.

### **New Business**

- Theophany/epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday and everything in place for that.
- Will discuss plan for Lent and Holy Week and Pascha in future meetings (Palm Sunday April 25; Pascha May 2)
- Board members shared goals
- Nilda Salavachi reported we raised \$526 on Giving Tuesday
- Donna Dmitri will work to set up meeting with parish council and metropolitan to discuss next steps in finding a new priest

**The next Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:17 with a closing prayer from Father Dennis.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Reem Tarazi