

**Parish Council Meeting
November 14, 2022
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

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

Clergy: none

Sunday School: none

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Croke, Linda Notskas, Steve Coraluzzi

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:35 pm

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the October 2022 meeting. Zach moved to accept minutes as presented and Sergio seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end October 2022:

- Checking account down to ~\$10,700
- Market investment account around ~\$232,000; gain in value since last month
- Transferred \$10,000 from investment account on 10/11/22 to cover cost of roof; able to transfer less than anticipated because of generous donations from parishioners
- 62 pledges received thus far; ~\$41,700 promised and ~\$32,300 received
- Received couple additional icon payments; about \$2500 short for year
- On check register there are 2 line items for insurance – \$1745 is payment to Goodville that has been refunded and ~\$16,800 for new coverage with Erie which was paid in full for year
- Other notable income or expenses
 - Generous \$6000 anonymous donation for roof (roof donations ~ \$13,000)
 - Sidewalk repair \$5200
- Contact Zach with any questions about CC or bank statements

Nilda moved to accept the September report, seconded by Reem. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- The results from the Parish Council election were forwarded to Father Nikodhim. Will follow up with him this week. We will elect officers at the meeting following the blessing from the Bishop (Locum Tenens – Tikhon).
- Preparation of the Nativity letter: Christine volunteered to write letter. Will send week of Dec 11. Stationary has arrived.
- Sidewalk in front of the church was repaired as were the steps at the rear of the church. Some areas on the south side of the church were repointed. At our Fall church clean-up day on October 15th Sergio caulked areas of concern on the stone on the north and south sides of the church. Total cost \$5200.00

- Roof Update re: Leaks: Big Joe came back to the church and identified 2 areas where we had leaks. One on the north side middle window lower roof and one on the south side above the middle window in the church hall. The welds on the copper were broken. Big Joe caulked the broken welds. We have contacted Mulroy Bay Construction, the company who installed the copper gutters 3 years ago. They will be out to repair the broken welds.
- Father Nikodhim met with the Holy Synod this past week. A statement will be released in the next few weeks indicating the next steps in him being consecrated as the Bishop of the Albanian Archdiocese.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Issues with last 2 livestreams freezing because of automatic updates received; Sergio will manage updates and then hopefully everything will work smoothly
- Sergio has been working for last few months on developing new website
 - This new website is at NO COST to parish (Sergio will cover minimal expense)
 - Orthodox Solutions will cancel check and cancel account for old website
 - Sergio shared several pages, all of which are available in English and Albanian
 - Media portion very rich
 - Sunday school section needs updating
 - Picture and video sections available
 - Pledge page redesigned and can complete directly from site
 - We now have own designated IP address rather than shared IP address
 - We have more disk usage space
 - Sergio reviewed the new email addresses and how to manage access via web and encouraged people not to forward the church email to personal accounts
 - If someone goes on old site, will get redirected to new site
 - Old email addresses still working
 - Archives available with years of weekly messengers and council meeting minutes
- We also have a 3rd domain name – stjohnsphila.com – which will expire in 2024 and we don't have a need to keep this additional domain name
- Sergio is seeking a web manager willing to help manage and maintain and update the website; Sergio willing to teach and train anyone interested; Donna will post in messenger
- We will have a separate meeting to determine email forwarding plan
- Nilda suggested adding pictures to administrative page; we can take pictures at church in coming weeks
- **THANK YOU** Sergio for all your incredible work!

Sunday School Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)

- Few Sunday school students; many not available on Dec 4 for event
- How do we bring children back to church?!
 - We've been struggling for past 6 years to have families consistently come to church; we are hopeful that new and consistent full-time priest will support this effort
- Reem provided an update on status of holiday gift drive program

Old Business

- Social Media Subcommittee (Linda C)
 - Looking into policies that others are implementing in other settings including OCA; there isn't much out there to go on
 - Goal will be to work on something for next meeting
 - Zach and Reem stressed importance of getting policy in place and revitalizing our social media as soon as possible
- Fall festival party
 - Thank you to Paula Bendo and all those who helped plan and organize
 - We had a small group of children but they had a great time
- Fr. Kai update
 - Donna made announcement in church yesterday
 - Fr. Kai received notification that his Archbishop will release him from Greek Archdiocese effective 1/1/23 and he received blessing from Met. Tikhon.
 - Waiting for official letters to formalize announcement
 - The hope will be for him to serve his first liturgy with us 1/1/23
 - Sergio and Donna shared new information heard about Fr. Kai; council discussed the information and how to proceed. Will report to Fr. Nikodhim.

New Business

- Mail delivery problems
 - Zack suggesting getting PO Box for church because of concerns especially not getting intended donations
 - Donna informed us that city has an investigation going on re: mail delivery problems
 - Donna indicated someone would have to pick up, which is a challenge; Linda C. volunteered to pick up mail weekly if we decided to get a PO Box
 - Will revisit next month
- Christmas Liturgy
 - Fr. Dennis suggested vespereal liturgy on December 24
 - Christine will do Nativity letter and Sergio will translate into Albanian
 - Decorating church – possibly Dec 4 after the Sunday school event; Donna will speak to Fiori about getting Sunday school students involved
- Sergio asked about a Square campaign for Christmas offering, but Zach suggested we work on pledge campaign at end of the year instead to attempt to get 34 additional pledges in 2022
- Linda C announced if anyone wanted to collect items for homeless shelters, she would be willing to bring to a shelter; Linda N suggested putting out a box for year-round donation for shelter donations; Donna stated we should focus on Sunday school drive for this month and then revitalize some of these other charitable efforts in new year
- Nilda suggested that we plug availability of Albanian items for sale on the website.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, December 12 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi