

**Parish Council Meeting
April 10, 2023
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani (joined at 8:10), Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Croke (joined at 8:00), Linda Notskas

Meeting opened at 7:40pm with prayer by Fr. Kai

Secretary's Report (reported by Christine Dardaris)

Christine presented the minutes from the March 2023 meeting. Sergio moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Zach. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end March 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$55,000
- Market investment up a bit to ~\$252,000
- 42 pledges received so far for \$32,529 pledged; \$15,844 received thus far
- More icon payments received for total ~\$10,700
- Income
 - Typical pledges for this time of year
 - Received some additional icon payments
 - Women's day dance raised >\$3000
- Expenses
 - Larger gas bill; Zach looking for different supplier
 - 2 fair share contributions to archdiocese in March
- In red this month for income and expenses, but in black for year
- Checking account – tried new way of reconciling and it worked!

Reem moved to accept the March 2023 report, seconded by Nilda. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Additional Updates:

Zach looked into insurance policy if we wanted to rent out Church Hall

- Would need to update our insurance policy accordingly
- Premium would go up about 50% (~\$8000 increase annually)
- Renters cannot provide own insurance; needs to be captured via our policy
- Council agreed that \$8000 additional cost does not seem worth it at this time. Donna indicated that we have not received recent requests for hall rental but we did prior to pandemic. Donna suggested getting additional quotes for insurance when our renewal is up in Fall and inquiring about cost of adding coverage for hall rental. Council will revisit at that time. Need to weigh benefit versus cost both in terms of time/effort and money.

- If we decide to pursue and promote, Christine suggested reaching out to Greater Philadelphia Film Office (film.org) to promote our space. Donna indicated there was interest from film crews and health fairs in past.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Attendance has been good lately but wonder what will happen after Pascha
- After Pascha, will revisit goals related to working with and educating children in parish. This will be easier to do if Fr. Kai knows who will be present each week so he can plan and engage the children. Suggests having a schedule. He presented ideas on engaging and educating children during the liturgy.
- Has done more home blessings; interested and willing to continue with home blessings even if the distance is far.
- Wants to introduce Bible studies/adult education.
- Plans to start Saturday evening Vespers and make available via livestream; Vladimir has agreed to participate. Will plan to do explanation of hymns for educational component.
- Donna highlighted Fr. Kai's commitment to education and stated that Fr. Kai did a wonderful job at Lazarus Saturday service and suggested that those who missed it watch the Livestream.
- Baptism scheduled for this Sunday, April 16th.
- Donna stated that Frank Lescas will be present to chant on Holy Friday and Pascha for the 11:30 service (Vladimir and Susan typically do not come on Holy Friday)

Sunday School Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- Lazarus Saturday – had a nice crowd but only 4 children from our parish (others were visitors)
- Sunday School continues to struggle; few kids and few teachers present each week

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- The report from the Inspector for Erie Insurance came back. They are requesting we get an asbestos assessment/inspection. We will follow-up with their request
- Spoke with Jim Stritch, the A/C installer. The A/C should be installed by the end of the month.
- All of the fire extinguishers have been recertified.
- Pascha letter mailed.
- Still working on the sales tax refund from PECO. Having a problem with the website. Scheduled a phone call with the PA Bureau of Revenue.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Website: events current, need to update pictures
- Livestream: 158 subscribers; participation hovering around 9-10 connections per weekend
- Window repair in Hall – project started; need to ensure no leak on a rainy day before sealing
- There was an email last month about a request to do wedding at church; Fr. Kai and Donna responded to the request. Wedding will not be at our church as it not large enough for the requesting couple.

Old Business

- Background checks: Christine hasn't heard anything back from Deacon Spiro about the outcome of our submissions; she will check with him on the status. Everyone should have received an email from mobilizemyministry.com on 2/10/23 with a link to start application and authorize background check. If you did not yet complete this process, please do.
- In follow-up to an email received by Andonetta Theokary, Donna asked if anyone is interested in looking into whether our church could be designated as an historical building. Nilda stated that it is unlikely to meet criteria for designation given the number of renovations that have been done over the years. Donna will respond to Andonetta with decision to not pursue at this time.
- Friday – will decorate Epitaphios; Fiori will get flowers and several other volunteers
- Fr. Kai indicated parishioners would be allowed to take Q-tips with Holy Unction home on Wednesday
- Per Linda C., Margarita Sevi will donate flowers on Thursday for the stands in front of altar.

New Business

- Nilda initiated discussion about outdoor liturgy/picnic; Fr. Kai agreed to continue tradition. Nilda will look into options/availability and get back to council next meeting. Donna suggested looking into Delaware County, where many parishioners live.
- Nilda received feedback after Women's Day Dance to consider having another event in June. Will consider. Also suggested someone could coordinate another fundraiser (e.g., the painting event Fiori did last year)
- Albanian seminarian, Juxhin Shkurti, at St. Vladimir's, who is sponsored by archdiocese student fund, will be ordained a Deacon on 4/23/23. Donna will announce in Weekly Messenger.
- Fr. Kai will make announcements after Pascha to encourage pledges and donations.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 7:30pm.

Semi-annual parish meeting re-scheduled to April 30.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi