

Parish Council Meeting
June 12, 2023
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)

Roll Call

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

Parish Council Members Absent: Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi

Clergy: Fr. Kai

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

Meeting opened at 7:38 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the revised minutes from the May 2023 meeting.

Sergio moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Christine. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end May 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$59,800
- Market investment down this month to ~\$249,000, reflecting market changes
- Up to 53 pledges received so far for ~\$38,500 pledged; ~\$25,300 collected thus far
- More icon payments received for total ~\$11,200 YTD
- Investment account and check register presented for review
- Notable Income
 - ~\$4000 in pledges received
 - >\$2000 in memorial donations
 - Couple donations for use of church
 - Final Amazon Smile payment received
- Notable expenses
 - Gas bills back to normal after winter
 - \$882 to AOAA monthly for fair share dues
- In red this month, but in black for YTD
- Bank and CC statement available for review

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

Other updates:

- Not clear what amount we agreed to donate to Albanian Missionaries. In past, we have given \$500 per family (there are currently 5 families), although we did not donate last year. Council agreed to donate \$500 per family this year.
- Zach suggested we could look into putting electric car chargers in our lot for additional revenue. There may be a waitlist for rebate. Council discussed pros and cons. Zach will do some additional research and report what he finds. Steve said Comcast introducing program

to support installation of chargers for businesses; Steve will get more information and report back.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Not much interest expressed yet for Bible study class; may be worth revisiting after Summer
- Fr. Kai continues to try to reach and connect with parishioners; he sees new people each Sunday.
- Is seeking regular engagement from interested people to direct educational efforts and to support various initiatives and procedures, as there is not always consistency in who attends church.
- Offered to post sermons or other content on Facebook; wants to continue to reach people via Livestream and social media.
- Donna stressed that Fr. Kai remains encouraged and encouraging!
- Baptism scheduled this Thursday; more baptisms scheduled through summer
- Preliminary discussion about new iconography for church:
 - Please see chairperson report below for further details
 - Anticipate this would be a long-term project and will continue to discuss.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- Fiori spoke with Ed Papa in reference to the FaceBook and Instagram pages. This is what Fiori sent Donna:

Ed and I looked at the page together last week and came to the conclusion that is best we create a new page that is connected to the current Instagram and Facebook accounts. If you all are ok to go this route I can create the page and try to ping all the current followers on the old one so that they start following this page going forward. Ed will still continue to look into the old account to see if at some point we can retrieve it but chances are very slim at this point

 - Council agreed to move forward as recommended here
- We received an estimate to complete the asbestos assessment/inspection. \$1495.00. If anyone has any experience with asbestos or inspection or knows of a company, please let Donna know.
- The new A/C has arrived and arrangements are being made with a crane company to have it delivered. The old unit has been removed.
- The sales tax refund for tax paid to PECO was submitted online on April 18, 2023. Waiting for a decision from the Department of Revenue; they have up to six months to render a decision.
- New Battery and sensor pack for the AED were received and installed in the AED. The AED is mounted to the wall between the Ladies and Mens bathrooms.
- Ilirjan Papa and Father Kai have been speaking with Qirjako Kosova, brother of George Kosova (who occasionally does plumbing repairs at the church) and son of Marcel Kosova. Qirjako is an Iconographer and has some thoughts on writing Icons in the Altar.
 - Ilirjan and Fiori Papa indicated they will make a donation toward the writing of the Icons and suggested a fundraiser for the other Icons in the Altar. Many churches have these fundraisers where people donate money and their name is written on the Icon as the donor. This is Qirjako's website <https://otrigrammatos.com>

- We plan to begin the window replacement project in the church. An announcement will go in the Messenger asking if anyone is interested in helping with this project.
- Begin to think about whether you are able to serve on Parish Council in 2024. We will talk about it more next meeting. If you know anyone who is willing to serve, please encourage them to step forward.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Window in church hall still waiting for repair because of unavailability of people who volunteered to do the project
- Livestream going well, 166 subscribers and growing steadily
- We have versatile software and have capability to add, for example, separate recordings and can post by event/category. These could be uploaded and shared on, for example, social media
 - Fr. Kai liked the idea of recording formal, scripted video clips especially involving our youth.

Old Business

- Fr. Kai shared his perceptions of his first Memorial Day blessing of graves at Fernwood Cemetery. He suggested possibility of doing memorials in cemetery if families are interested. Donna will put in messenger.
- Background checks: Christine acknowledged receipt of Donna's email and will follow-up; no current updates
- Archdiocesan Assembly Consecration/enthronement of new bishop in Boston Aug 15-17
 - Individuals already elected to represent our parish at the meeting, but anyone can attend meeting and/or consecration
 - Rooms still available; let Donna know if you want information
 - We have substitute priest scheduled for Aug 17

New Business

Linda N. has an old prayer book that she believes should be reprinted and sold. Donna asked her to bring to church.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, July 10 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi