

Parish Council Meeting
May 8, 2023
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

Parish Council Members Absent: Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Nilda Salavachi
Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Croke, Linda Notskas

Meeting opened at 7:44pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the April 2023 meeting.

Zach was unable to find mention of a plan for donation to Albanian missionaries in previous minutes and council could not recall any specific decision on this; will revisit at next council meeting.

Zach moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Davit. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end April 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$58,660
- Market investment up a bit to ~\$254,000
- 47 pledges received so far for ~\$35,800 pledged; ~\$21,000 received thus far
- More icon payments received for total ~\$11,000 (total bids = \$15,250)
- Investment account and check register presented for review
- Notable Income
 - ~\$5400 pledges received
 - \$1000 matching corporate donation
 - ~\$5400 pascha (little below budget)
 - Baptism
- No notable contributions
- Ended month in black with ~\$5500 in excess
- Bank and CC statement available for review

Linda N. asked about sending letter to those with unpaid icon bids, but Zachary reminded Linda that some people pay late in the year and they will be reminded through contribution statement.

Davit moved to accept the report, seconded by Reem. Motion passed.

Zach informed council that we have a new gas supplier with a 12-month fixed price which is cheaper than PGW. Plan to still shop around for new supplier for electricity.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Paschal season was beautiful and successful! Still learning customs.
- In process of buying a house in the area; hope to close in July
- Will start doing Saturday Vespereal service and incorporate an educational component
- Encourage parents to consider making schedule for children to be able to organize/plan, but heard that it's difficult for parents to always know schedule ahead of time
- Considering ways to connect with parishioners who have become less involved in recent years
- Ready to begin Bible study and asked for suggestions on how to initiate this process
 - Fr. Kai will work with Sergio to generate an interest/signup form, announce in church, and put in messenger; once group is formed they can work together to determine topics, etc.

Chairperson Report (prepared by Donna Dimitri)

- AC unit arrived in warehouse; installation will begin in about 2 weeks
- The Semi-annual Parish meeting went well. About 45 people attended. Father Kai reported things are going well. He encourages parishioners to contact him as he is here for all of us. We are a large family working to make St. John Chrysostom the best church it can be. Linda Croke, Linda Notskas and Colleen Xhoxhi are the Parish delegates for the Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly September 15, 2023. They will vote on behalf of the parish at the Assembly, which will be held at St. George Cathedral in Boston. September 16th will be the ordination of Father Nikodhim as our Archdiocesan Bishop. Everyone is encouraged to attend the assembly on Sept 15th and the ordination on Sept 16th. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.
- We are in the process of looking for a company to complete the asbestos assessment/inspection.
- Spoke with Jim Stritch, the A/C installer. The A/C has arrived and will be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- 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.
- New Battery and sensor pack ordered for the AED. The AED is mounted to the wall between the Ladies and Mens bathrooms.
- Fiori was able to reestablish the Facebook and Instagram accounts using church credentials. The accounts are no longer associated with personal accounts. Stephanie Kosta and Nilda have been given the credentials to update info on both pages. If anyone else is interested in access to the accounts, please contact Sergio or Fiori.
- On January 24, 2023 a complaint was filed with Representative Dwight Evans in reference to the issues with the mail. We never heard from Mr. Evans' office but we are getting mail at least once a week.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Website updated; there are many routine updates needed (photos, information) so will speak to Nilda about what is needed and can hopefully get several people involved.
- Livestream going well; Michele Sarkos' sons helped out last week when Sergio was absent out and did well! Can use more assistance.

- Updated electrical panel in kitchen with new breakers. Thank you, Sergio!
- No updates on church hall window repairs

Old Business

- Background checks
- Liturgy/picnic in park
- Possible additional social event/dance

No updates on this old business since Christine and Nilda not present.

New Business

- May 29 – Blessing of graves at Fernwood
 - Blessing usually starts at 10:00am; Fr. Kai will call Fr. Dennis for more details
- Donation requests
 - Keys and Sword donation request – council agreed to a \$500 donation
 - St. Mary’s festival – we are too late to appear in program, but council agreed to donate \$200 to the church/festival.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi