

Parish Council Meeting
August 16, 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: Steve Coraluzzi, Susan Melnik, Vladimir Melnik

Meeting opened at 7:42 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the revised minutes from the July 2023 meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end July 2023:

- Checking account down to ~\$29,650 (payment for AC; waiting for AC reimbursement)
- Market investment up again this month to ~\$266,000
- 1 new pledge this month
- \$160 in icon payments received
- Investment account and check register presented for review
- Notable Income
 - \$2250 in pledge payments
 - Few memorial donations
 - \$500 anonymous donation
 - 1 baptism donation
- Notable Expenses
 - Electric expenses negative because reimbursement received for previously paid sales tax
 - AC repair payment
 - Fair share contribution
 - Keys and Sword contribution
- IOCC Missionary donations still being processed
- In red again this month, which is typical for summer, but expect to be in black after receive reimbursement for AC payments.
- Bank and CC statement available for review

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

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Hopeful will see increased presence of parishioners in church now that summer is over.
- Vespers services have been introduced and will continue on Saturdays beginning Sept 9th

- Looking into options to try to record service and start adult education lessons after Vespers to post online.
- Seeking feedback about lecture content/length; Sergio sent link from last service. Please review and share comments.
- Donna mentioned that remote education meetings can also be an option.
- Christine supported the idea of posting content on a YouTube channel to reach more people.
- Looks forward to meeting with Bishop and priests from our Archdiocese in Boston next month.
- Please reach out to Fr. Kai to discuss if there are concerns or questions re: rumors about the Albanian Diocese (which is part of the Greek Archdiocese) and the new bishop of the Albanian Diocese.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- Insurance claim for air conditioner: We received \$19,819.25 to date. We submitted the invoice for the installation of the unit and expect to receive \$18,504.75 from the insurance company.
- Ilijan Papa will hopefully join the meeting next month to go over the Iconography proposal from Quirako Kosova. Ilijan is on vacation this week and Quirako is in Albania. He will return to the US in November.
- Windows for the church: In the process of inquiring about Provia Windows. Annunciation Church in Natick used that window when they replaced the windows in their church about 8 years ago. Will also check with Home Depot. Hope to have a proposal for the semi-annual meeting in October.
- Parish Council Elections will be held at the October Semi-Annual Parish meeting. Please let Donna know if you are able to serve on Parish Council in 2024.
- We have had a few volunteers for the Sunday school program. Will continue to make announcements to encourage more people to volunteer to teach our children. We need commitments from both teachers and parents and need multiple teachers per week to be able to divide into appropriate age groups (ideally 4 age groups).

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Would like to update website, especially home page; let Sergio know if there is new content (e.g., bishop ordination)
- Livestreaming: 173 subscribers; participation steady on Sundays
- Should advertise if Vespers will be streamed live
- Upstairs window repair – work has started
- Sergio working on providing Fr. Kai pronunciation for requested Albanian content during liturgy

Old Business

- Sunday school – see Chair report
- Iconography – see Chair report
- Archdiocesan Assembly Consecration/enthronement of new bishop in Boston September 15-17
 - Hotel rooms booked for members of our parish attending

- Donna reviewed itinerary and will continue to update on details
- Fr. James Thayer will serve as our substitute priest that Sunday
- Liturgy and picnic in the park
 - Nilda had initially volunteered but does not have time to pursue this year
 - Fr. Kai suggested should focus on children's attendance and participation
 - Following discussion (mixed support/enthusiasm), decided to postpone until next year
 - Steve suggested a post-church family event as a way to enhance participation and connection among parishioners (e.g., Franklin Institute) and volunteered to get information

New business

- Bishop visit scheduled for September 23-24; memorial service for Fr. Dennis' son
 - Specific plans TBD
 - Will ask parishioners to contribute to luncheon
- Fall clean-up scheduled for Saturday, September 9 at 9:00am
- Semi-annual parish meeting scheduled for October 22

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, September 11 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi