

**Parish Council Meeting
February 12, 2024
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

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

Clergy: Fr. Kai

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

Meeting opened at 7:43 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the January 2024 meeting with one correction to draft. No discussion.

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

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end January 2024:

- Checking account up to ~\$49,900
- Investment account down to ~\$269,800
- 23 pledges so far: ~\$21,000 pledged, >\$4000 received
 - Some fulfilled 2023 pledges also
- 2024 Icon Auction
 - Budgeted \$14,000 but we have ~\$16,800 in bids thus far and ~\$8000 received!
- If interested, Zach can send investment account for review
- Notable Income
 - Set a general “pledges” account in Power Church with designated time periods as opposed to generating new account each year
 - Memorial donations
- Notable Expenses
 - No notable expenses
 - Bishop finally cashed outstanding check
 - Sunday school expenses are reimbursement for gift drive
- Increase in parish contribution for pension will start next month
- Bank and CC statement available for review

Reem moved to accept the report, seconded by Sergio. No discussion. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Modifications made to December report because of mail received after 12/31/23

- Sent modified contribution statements as appropriate
- \$29,059 income in December modified to \$30,994 and adjusted 2023 total income accordingly

Some parishioners have completed pledge cards, which is helpful for those not doing monthly donations. Zach suggested putting pledge cards at tables during coffee hour on a routine basis. Council decided on a plan for this.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

1. January activities: notable for baptism and several funerals, allowing opportunity to connect with some who are not in church regularly
2. Focusing on bishop's visit 2/24-2/25
3. Orthodoxy on Tap event in our church hall on 2/23
4. Vespers services not well attended, but willing to continue
 - a. Fr. Kai and David plan to have discussions after Vespers and record/post for others
 - b. Donna thanked Fr. Kai and Melniks for continuing commitment to services despite attendance
5. Continued discussion about introducing other languages into service
6. Parishioners have expressed an opinion that Gospel be read instead of chanted for intelligibility; council members offered input
7. Updates re: hospital, cemetery, and home visits

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. Windows in main church: Ordered 1 window from Home DePot. In the process of obtaining 2 other quotes for the installation. Have been in contact with the "Film" company. Have to decide on the Icons.
2. Sunday school does not have a director and teachers vary from week to week. Some weeks there are no students and other weeks there are not teachers. It is a very difficult year.
3. Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy was emailed to everyone. All Parish Council Members have signed off on the sheet which will be forwarded to the Archdiocese.
4. Orthodoxy On Tap will meet in our church hall on Friday, February 23, 2024 @6:30 pm. Young adults are encouraged to attend.
5. Bishop Nikodhim and Deacon Juxhin will visit on February 24-25th. Linda C. made arrangements for them to stay in the guest suite at her building. Bishop Nikodhim will celebrate Vespers on February 24th and the Divine Liturgy on February 25th. We will provide a Philly dinner (Cheesesteak, Pizza and Soft Pretzels) for dinner Saturday night. Sunday will be a memorable day as David Brook will be tonsured as a Reader. Deacon Juxhin will be here Saturday night and the Bishop Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights. The rooms at Linda's building are \$80.00 a night and \$100.00 a night.
6. Sergio asked for update re: iconographer.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

1. Website current
2. Women's day dance information posted
3. Christine informed she had trouble using Venmo; Donna and Zach aware and are addressing

Old Business

1. Elvira proposal to sell food as fundraiser; only one person expressed interest/provided feedback
2. Women's Day Dance: scheduled for March 9

- a. Nilda has been posting and reaching out and getting interest; she'll continue to follow-up
 - b. Intention right now is to attempt a women's only event; depending on response will open up to families
3. Still need to get new photos for website of Fr. Kai and council

New business

1. Need to update directory
 - a. Will create form and send link to update info for church directory
 - b. Ask people to send pictures or we can try to take photos at church
 - c. Linda C and Nilda offered to contact families who do not respond to initial request
2. Date for semi-annual parish meeting: March 17, 2024
3. Goals for 2024
 - a. Elicit interest for new parish council members
 - b. Continue to try to court college students and young adults in area
 - c. Reach out to parishioners who have stopped coming
 - d. Linda C. mentioned the value of home blessings in connecting with parishioners or finding another way to make connection. Council discussed potential approaches.
 - e. Reem brought up idea of a high school lesson. Discussed options for this and other youth education to increase involvement of kids and religious education.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi