

Parish Council Meeting
March 11, 2024
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith (until 8:15), Reem Tarazi

Parish Council Members Absent: Christine Dardaris, Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Croke, Elvira Gusho, Linda Notskas

Meeting opened at 7:35 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the February 2024 meeting. No discussion.

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

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end February 2024:

- Checking account up to ~\$55,000
- Investment account up to ~\$277,600
- 34 pledges so far: ~\$32,500 pledged, ~\$11,400 received
- 2024 Icon Auction
 - 3 additional bids since last month for ~\$17,000 in bids thus far and ~8500 received
- Notable Income
 - Generous corporate donation from Comcast
 - Memorial donations
 - Women's Day dance already brought in ~\$4000 before tickets sold at door
- Notable Expenses
 - Building maintenance includes invoice for asbestos inspection, boiler repair, and maintenance contract with Phoenix for boilers and AC
 - Capital improvement – one new window
- In the black currently
- Bank and CC statement available for review

Per Donna, CC limit raised to \$10,000

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

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

1. Support plan for continued beautification of the church
2. Communicated with Philadelphia area Brotherhood
 - a. Will continue tradition of joint Vespers – in August this year
 - b. Offered to host 1-2 monthly meetings at our church per year
3. Shared insight on Bishop's agenda and vision

4. Will recognize Albanian Heritage Day during liturgy on March 24 with specific prayers and chanting with help of Vladimir and Vasili
5. Sunday of Orthodoxy: will invite people to bring icons and do blessing and procession, which is a tradition in other Orthodox churches.
6. We will maintain our church's tradition on Forgiveness Sunday, next Sunday.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. The first window was installed in the main portion of the church today. It fit perfectly. The 9 other windows will be ordered in the next week



2. Volunteers are needed to organize a fundraiser for the windows. I will have definitive numbers for the cost of the windows next month. Looking for families to sponsor the window and have a plaque put next to the window indicated they donated it.
3. Sunday school continues to struggle.
4. Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy was emailed to everyone. All Parish Council Members have signed off on the sheet which was forwarded to the archdiocese.
5. Orthodoxy On Tap met in our church hall on Friday, February 23, 2024. Archbishop Michael from Diocese of NJ and NY was the guest speaker. Very nice turnout of 60-70 people. Dan Forry, one of the organizers, was most appreciative to our parish for the use of the church hall.
6. Bishop Nikodhim and Deacon Juxhin visited February 24-25, 2024. It was a very nice visit. About 100 parishioners came for the Divine Liturgy and pot-lock coffee hour. David Brook was tonsured as a Reader. Vlad and Susan Melnik received the Herald of Constantine and Helena award. Susan and Vlad's family and friends attended the Divine Liturgy. They are very deserving of the award and were surprised! Honorariums were sent to the Bishop and Deacon for their service.

Old Business

1. Semi-annual parish meeting scheduled for March 17, 2024 – 4 council members confirmed attendance so will proceed.
2. Elvira presented idea to sell Albanian food or have food festival as fundraiser. Council members provided input and suggestions. Elvira will gauge interest and consider options.

3. Nilda gave update on Women's Day Dance:
 - a. Many contributed to help make it a success (Thank you Nilda and family, Donna and daughters, Linda, Colleen, and Michele!)
 - b. Last year – 66 adults and 1 child; this year – 91 adults and 14 kids; about 50% parishioners
 - c. Payment system was easy with online link, some paid cash/check
 - d. Intend to keep invitation for families, rather than women only; will not sell alcohol
 - e. More detailed report to come next month
4. Photos of council for website – still in the works

New business

1. Great Lent, Lazarus Saturday, and Pascha preparations – will discuss next month
2. Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays at 6:00pm through Lent starting next week

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi