

**Parish Council Meeting
September 3, 2024
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

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

Parish Council Members Absent: Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Croke, Linda Notskas

Note: August 2024 parish council meeting canceled

Meeting opened at 7:35 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the July meeting. No discussion.

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

AI meeting minutes will be generated for this meeting and we will review and determine whether these are accurate and sufficient for future meetings so that live notes do not need to be taken by Secretary during meeting. Will discuss at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end July 2024:

- Checking account down to ~\$17,000
- Investment account up to ~\$288,000
- 52 pledges total; ~42,000 pledged and ~30,000 received
- Icon pledges received up to ~12,900.
- Notable Income
 - None
 - More or less on track when compared to 2023
- Notable Expenses
 - None
 - 2 contributions to AOAA appear this month
- In the red again this month, not unexpected
- Bank and CC statements available for review

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

At end August 2024:

- Checking account down to ~\$15,000 due to continued expenses
- Investment account up to ~\$293,300
- No new pledges, but one family stopped pledged; ~\$41,000 pledged, ~32,000 received

- Icon pledges received remains at ~12,900
- Notable Income
 - Pledges in line with same time 2023
 - One substantial donation from Henry Agee
 - \$6000 window donation
 - Continue to do very well with candle and collections (above budget)
- Notable Expenses
 - None
 - Made Key and Sword and 2/3 missionary donations
- In the red again this month
- Bank and CC statements available for review

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

Donna and Zach discussed potential need to withdraw from investment account.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

1. Nothing specific to report
2. Trying to maintain momentum through summer and preparing for September meeting
3. Continue to try to introduce more Albanian chanting and services
4. At the request of the bishop, Fr. Kai will attend a seminar/workshop in Chicago being conducted by the OCA
5. An educational video was created with Nikoloz about St. Diadochus which received praise for its content and narration; Donna will send around for all to take a look and review
 - a. Donna suggested length of 20 min may be too long; Fr. Kai suggested dividing into shorter videos
 - b. Linda C. shared feedback and suggestions
 - c. Fr. Kai already sent to Fr. Mark
6. Planning a vacation end December/January. Donna asked Fr. Dennis to cover.
7. Working on finding a Sunday School director, but has been challenging

Chairperson Report August/September 2024 (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. The window project is moving forward. The window film of the 10 Feast Days with crosses on either side on the casement windows have been approved for the Church Window film to begin production. Waiting for the 4 Icons for the doors leading into the church from the candle stand.
 - Jesus Christ
 - The Theotokos
 - St. John Chrysostom
 - St. George

Projected installation is sometime in October. Lewis Branning, from Church Window Film will come to Philadelphia from company headquarters in Alabama and install the film. The installation was included in the price of the window film.

2. Planning continues for the Archdiocesan Assembly which will be held at Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church, Friday & Saturday, Sept 20 & 21, 2024. Our delegates are

Sergio Georgi, Linda Notskas and Anila Vero, Alternate Linda Croke and our priest, Father Kai will attend. I will attend as the Archdiocesan Treasurer and Nilda Salavachi will attend as an Archdiocesan Trustee.

3. No movement on the repair of the sign in front of the church. We received an estimate of \$2500.00 to repair the sign base from Andi Velu, Builders Star Line
<buildersstarline@yahoo.com>

We want to complete the window project before beginning this project. The sign base is stable but will eventually have to be repaired.

4. I am happy to report we averaged 45-60 people each Sunday during the summer. This is the best attendance during the summer months since before Covid.

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- Windows Upgrade completed; there were some problems on Sunday, but Sergio resolved
- Sergio volunteered to help Sts. Peter and Paul to get zoom and YouTube for the Archdiocese meeting
- Thank you, Sergio for your time and expertise and generosity!

Old Business

1. Sunday School plan for the future; this year will start Sunday School on 9/22

New Business

1. Semi-annual meeting scheduled for October 20
2. Will forgo Fall clean-up but will plan for Spring clean-up
3. Donna has been seeking interest for parish council positions; current members are willing to remain on council

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi