

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 22, 2023

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:00pm with an opening prayer led by Father Tilemahos. Father Dean also present. Tom Sikoral acted as Chairman of the meeting. Nick Megremis acted as Recording Secretary.

Attendees: N Megremis, G Cooloengen, G Bepis, T Rizos, J Karnezis, E Kiriazopoulos, T Kanelos, E Dimoutsikos, P Giannopoulos, G Houpis, T Zavos, T Bournias, T Sikoral, D Loomos, A Koutsikos, T Karabatsos, M Pontikes

Anna Prekas and Dr. Dean Velis also present as a non-voting participants.

Absent: B Bozikis, A Demeros, A Andrews, K Ioannou

PARISH OPERATIONS

Minutes

Minutes of the June 20th meeting were not available prior to the Meeting.

- **Motion to table minutes from the June 20th Parish Council meeting.**
 - T Kanelos/2nd A Koutsikos. **Vote: 12-0-0. Passed Unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report (Led by T Zavos)

Shelby System

- All Financials will be reported out of Shelby going forward.
- Audit still pending.

- Hoping the new system helps speed up the review process with the accountant.
- Working to get historical financials into Shelby for year-to-year comparisons.
- Will also help us move to a more paperless environment.

Food Fest Update

- Our Food Fest generated over \$500,000 in Gross Revenue.
- After some last minute expenses that are still pending, we expect NET Income from the Fest to be roughly \$260,000.
- For a comparison, Parish Council budgeted the income from the fest at \$175,000.
- Thoughts for future Fests: Look to lower overall costs (specifically Security expenses) and increase sponsorships.

School Finances

- Revenue less Expenses for the 2022-2023 school year was \$83,762. Church Expense Allocation will be \$110,410.
- There is a need to build a reserve fund for school expansion.
- There is also a need to build out additional classrooms as our schools keep growing.
- A long-term vision for the schools and for the church in general should be reviewed and implemented.

Inreach/Outreach (Led by T Kanelos)

- Bessie's Table and Meals on Wheels programs are strong and moving forward with more volunteers.
- Looking to organize further meal-packing events in the future.
- There will be a Compassion International presentation in the second week of December that will discuss their commitment to helping young children in impoverished countries.
- Still looking to sponsor a PADS night in the near future.

Youth Committee (Led by G Coologeorgen)

- There will be a meeting soon to get ready for the new school year.
- The youth Basketball league will be starting again in October.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Last meeting was on August 21st along with Building and Grounds.
- Looking to add padding on the walls of the gym to prevent injuries during sporting events.
- Also discussed adding a permanent Stewardship Table in the new building.
- Planning on adding a large Multipurpose Room in the West lobby of the building that can serve as meeting space or extra classrooms using a retractable divider.

Building and Grounds (Led by M Pontikes)

- Parking lot asphalt is in need of repair (stripping, sealing, pothole fixing, etc.). Got one bid for about \$17,000. Will look into getting more bids.
 - HVAC system still needs to be updated. Still getting bids and plans for this. Any update will require approval from the General Assembly.
 - Tuckpointing is also still needed the church and school building. Got two bids but need to get more.
 - Committee suggests putting in signage for both inside and outside to help direct people and traffic around the church and buildings.
- **Motion to approve up to \$5500 to install signage around the church and buildings.**
- P Giannopoulos/2nd G Bepis. **Vote: 12-2-0. Passed.**

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of 8/20/23, total pledged Stewardship for 2023: \$417,000 representing 588 Stewards. Total collected YTD is \$364,000. This is about a \$60,000 increase

from the same time period in 2022. This results in a median amount given of \$500 per Steward Family. Stewards giving in the 0-\$500 range make up 58% of total Stewards, while the \$501-\$1000 range makes up another 27%, resulting in 85% of all Stewards contributing \$1000 or under.

- Stewardship Luncheon is being planned to take place on January 21st.
- Working with the Facilities Committee to build out a permanent Stewardship Information Table in our new building.
- Stewardship Committee will be personally reaching out to our newest Stewards and also will be sending out a reminder for past Stewards who have yet to renew in 2023.
- The Committee is also asking any Council Members that are interested to share their Stewardship Story with us so that it can be published in the next bulletin and/or Visions.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- It was suggested that we should look into strengthening our security around the buildings and possibly engage our law enforcement partners in Niles to help us to create an emergency plan or assist us with training for our ushers and other parish leadership.
 - Father Dean reminds us that ushering needs to be more effective and proactive when it comes to seating people and at communion to effectively control the flow. We also need to be the face of the Church and make everyone feel welcome. He also reminds us that Spiritual leadership is the most important responsibility we have as a church and as Parish Council members.
 - Father Tilemahos would like to thank all of those that volunteered at our Food Fest this year and helped make it an incredible success. Going forward, the rest of this year will focus on expanding our Ministries and encourages all of us to become more empowered to lead them.
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- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
 - E Kiriazopoulos/2nd G Coologeorgen. **Vote: 16-0-0. Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 9:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary