

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 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, T Rizos, J Karnezis, T Kanelos, E Dimoutsikos, G Houpis, T Zavos, T Bournias, T Sikoral, T Karabatsos, A Demeros, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, B Bozikis, D Loomos, G Bepis

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

Absent: K Ioannou, P Giannopoulos, E Kiriazopoulos, A Koutsikos, M Pontikes

PARISH OPERATIONS

Sponsorships (presented by Lambros Konstantellos)

- Lambros presented updated donor levels for not only the Ad Book, but also suggested Sponsorship opportunities throughout the year.
- Business Owners and other donors might be more incline to purchase “bundled” Sponsorships that will show their support throughout the year. For example, bundle Ad Book posting, Food Fest sponsorship, Golf Outing signs, and Coffee Hour in one package.
- Georgia Bepis and Evan Dimoutsikos have volunteered to help Lambros develop a standardized plan.

Minutes

Minutes of the October meeting were made available prior to the Meeting. Small updates were suggested and Minutes will be updated before being posted.

- **Motion to accept minutes from the October 17th Parish Council meeting, as amended.**
 - T Karabatsos/2nd A Demeros. **Vote: 12-0-1. Passed Unanimously.**

Correspondence and Updates (Led by T Sikoral)

- The Fundraiser for Holy Trinity raised a total of \$3200.
- The additional basket of collected donations from last Sunday's service that was given to the Niles Center that will go to feed the elderly on Thanksgiving raised a total of over \$700.
- The City of Niles does a Holly Jolly Fest to kick off the Holiday season. They asked our church to help via donation.
- **Motion to give a one-time gift of \$250 to the City of Niles for the Holly Jolly Fest.**
 - T Kanelos/2nd A Demeros. **Vote: 12-1-0. Pass.**
- The Metropolitan has asked Father Tilemahos to participate in a leadership training program for selected clergy. Expense will be up to \$7000 and will be added to the 2024 budget.

Treasurer's Report (Led by T Zavos)

- October Financials will be ready and will be presented at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- Two CD's were purchased with money in our reserve funds for a total of \$100,000 in order to take advantage of higher interest rates.

- The 2024 Budget was distributed prior to our meeting and any remaining questions have been answered. Looking for approval to present budget to the General Assembly.
- **Motion to Approve the 2024 Budget.**
 - E Dimoutsikos/2nd G Bepis. **Vote: 10-1-3. Pass.**

2024 Capital Projects (Led by T Sikoral and J Karnezis)

- We will need General Assembly Approval for Parking Lot paving and Multipurpose Room and additional Classroom(s).
- Facility Meetings must be better communicated to all church groups.

Parish Council Elections (Led by T Sikoral)

- For those Parish Council Members who's terms are up at the end of 2023, please fill out the appropriate form with the office if you plan on coming back in 2024.
- We should be thinking about and looking for new PC candidates to join our group in order to engage the next generation. Personal invitations are key.

Inreach/Outreach (Led by T Kanelos and Fr. Tilemahos)

- For our Inreach program, both Fr. Alexis Torance and Fr. George Pyle came and gave wonderful presentation about the Holy Spirit. Both were interesting and well received.
- Working on getting more speakers to visit. Hoping to get a speak for every Wednesday night of Great Lent.
- George Giolas is officially the new chairperson of the Outreach committee.
- A group will be going to the Niles Civic Center to help deliver food to our senior citizens.
- December 8-10, we will be hosting Compassion International and will present their mission. The Church will need help setting up on Thursday night (the 7th) and also take-down on Sunday (the 10th).
- We also plan on participating in Night to Shine (prom for Special Needs kids) in 2025.

Youth Committee (Led by G Coologeorgen and D Loomos)

- Basketball season is now in full swing.
- The Church online store is officially re-opened and we will start advertising it after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Lunch with Santa will take place on December 2nd.
- Further research into getting padding for the gym walls was made and discussed.
- **Motion to approve up to \$14,000, funded from the building fund, to purchase full wall width safety padding for the gym.**
 - T Kanelos/2nd T Zavos. **Vote: 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously.**

Bylaws Committee (Led by Father Tilemahos)

The Committee has completed their work. They plan on having a “Town Hall” meeting some time in January to present their finding and recommendations. They will then seek final approval at the General Assembly meeting in the Spring of 2024.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- The Committee is creating an overall vision of the schools.
- Will recommend a new Multipurpose Room in the West Lobby at the next General Assembly meeting. Will also ask for Funding for a new classroom, even though no final plan has been made of what that classroom will look like.
- **Motion to bring to the General Assembly a proposal by the Facility Committee to spend up to \$295,000 on a West Lobby Multipurpose room plus classroom addition/modification in the old Community Center building.**
 - G Bepis/2nd E Dimoutsikos. **Vote: 9-6-0. Pass.**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- The Parish Council Retreat has been planned for the weekend of January 19-20.
 - Peter Stamatis will be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss adding External Defibrillators to our buildings.
 - T Kanelos suggest paying our Archdiocese commitment in advance in order to save 2% pre-payment discount.
-
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
 - G Bepis/2nd J Karnezis. **Vote: 15-0-0. Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayers led by Father Dean at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary