

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 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, E Kiriazopoulos, T Kanelos, E Dimoutsikos, G Houpis, T Zavos, T Bournias, T Sikoral, A Koutsikos, T Karabatsos, M Pontikes, A Demeros, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, B Bozikis, D Loomos

Anna Prekas and George Anastsiadis also present as a non-voting participants.

Absent: K Ioannou, G Bepis, P Giannopoulos

PARISH OPERATIONS

Minutes

Minutes of the June and September meeting were made available prior to the Meeting.

- **Motion to accept minutes from the June 20th Parish Council meeting.**
 - E Dimoutsikos/2nd A Demeros. **Vote: 9-0-4. Passed Unanimously.**
- **Motion to accept minutes from the September 19th Parish Council meeting.**
 - E Dimoutsikos/2nd A Koutsikos. **Vote: 10-0-3. Passed Unanimously.**

School Report (Led by G Anastasiadis)

- George presented the school budget and expects a pre-allocation net income of \$55,000
- New teachers were hired, but the Council asks that, if possible, background checks and training should be done before new staff members officially start.
- George is asking for Council's approval for a new Teacher's Aid for the Saturday School.

- **Motion to hire Angela Alvarez for Saturday School Teacher's Aid, contingent on clearing the background check and any other trainings.**
 - T Zavos/2nd G Cooloageorgen. **Vote: 15-0-1. Passed Unanimously.**

Correspondence (Led by T Sikoral)

The priest from Holy Trinity is asking local parishes for help paying their first Mortgage payment, as they only have 120 Stewards and they are finding it difficult to raise the funds.

- **Motion to give a one-time gift of \$2500 to Holy Trinity.**
 - T Kanelos/2nd B Bozikis. **Vote: 9-7-1. Pass.**

- **Motion to open a special fundraiser for additional fund to help Holy Trinity, open to our parishioners, until the end of 2023.**
 - T Zavos/2nd E Dimoutsikos. **Vote: 13-2-1. Pass.**

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

A multipurpose room will be installed in the West Lobby. Can accommodate 2 classrooms with an accordion divider. Committee is asking approval from the Parish Council to spend up to \$70,000 on this build out.

- **Motion to approve up to \$70,000 for new multipurpose room/additional classrooms (without a divider).**
 - G Cooloageorgen/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. **Vote: 15-1-1. Pass.**

HVAC was approved at the last General Assembly meeting, not to exceed \$140,000. Premistar was the winning bid. They will need the first down payment of 33% of the total to start the work.

- **Motion to accept the recommended bid from Premistar, on the recommendation from the Facilities Committee, and have them start work on the new HVAC system.**
 - G Coologeorgen/2nd T Kanelos. **Vote: 15-0-2. Passed Unanimously.**

Previously discussed tuckpointing work will begin soon.

- **Motion to approve spending \$7000 of the previously approved \$42,000 on tuck pointing.**
 - G Coologeorgen/2nd E Dimoutsikos. **Vote: 15-0-1. Passed Unanimously.**

The committee will continue with their plan to re-pave only the parts of the parking lot that need paving the most, and will wait until next year to see if further updates are required.

The committee would also like to add padding around the gym to prevent injuries. They received a quote for \$6300 to install them within the next month or so. Committee will continue to get additional bids, but would like approval from the Council to proceed with the purchase and installation of gym padding.

- **Motion to approve spending up to \$8000 for the Facilities Committee to purchase and install safety padding around the gym walls, pending a second bid.**
 - T Zavos/2nd T Karabatsos. **Vote: 15-0-1. Passed Unanimously.**

Day School Expansion (Led by G Anastasiadis)

- Much research has been done by the School Board, including reaching out to nearby schools like St. John's.
- If we are to expand the Day School, we want to be the best option for a truly Orthodox environment.
- Looking to establish a 1st Grade, but are not looking to be State certified.

- **Motion for the Parish Council to continue to support the research and due diligence of expanding our Day School to the 1st Grade for the 2024-2025 school year.**
 - A Demeros/2nd A Andrews. **Vote: 16-1-0. Pass.**

Treasurer's Report (Led by T Zavos)

- Budget revisions were sent out previous to meeting and are now ready for General Assembly.

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

- Bessie's Table as found additional cooks to replace the ones that can no longer continue. Happy to announce that we have signed up with the organization for one more year.
- Father Alexis Torance is coming for a speaking engagement on October 28th.
- There will be another guest speaker (Fr. George Pyle) from Springfield coming on November 15th.
- Compassion International will also be coming for an engagement in December.

Athletics (Led by D Loomos)

- Basketball practices are in full swing and the season will start soon. We have over 100 kids currently rostered. Also, we have had a donation of many new basketballs for our use.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of 10/16/23, total pledged Stewardship for 2023: \$440,000 representing 633 Stewards. Total collected YTD is \$405,000. 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.

Building and Grounds (Led by M Pontikes)

- Signage bids still in process but narrowing.
- Lights have been added in the Upper Room.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- The General Assembly needs to be scheduled. It was decided that the Assembly will be scheduled for November 26, with December 3 as a back-up.
- The plaque for Nick Andrews has been added to the church and is currently hanging on the wall near the Ushers Room.
- **Motion to give Deacon John a gift of \$5000 and a plaque of the Parish. The Parish Council will personally donate as much as they can, with the difference coming from Parish funds.**
 - T Kanelos/2nd E Dimoutsikos. **Vote: 15-1-0. Pass.**
 - Father T thanks the Council for our presence at church when we were graced by Archbishop Elpidophorous.
 - Also thanks Angelo D and all other participants for another successful golf outing.
 - Congratulations to Tom Kanelos for 32 years of service to the Archdiocese and to Tom Sikoral for his recent election to this council.
 - Tailgate event will take place on November 5th, with funds being raised to go towards the battle against human trafficking.
 - Reminder that November 8 is the feast day of the Archangels.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
 - T Rizzos/2nd A Andrews. **Vote: 17-0-0. Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayers led by Father Dean at 9:23pm.

October 17, 2023

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Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary