

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Parish Council Meeting began with Father Dean leading prayer at 8:10pm. Fr George was also in attendance for the duration of the meetings.

**Parish Council Members in Attendance:** C Agalliu, N Andrews, T Bournias, B Bozikis, P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, G Houpis, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, T Karabatsos, E Kiriazopoulos, L Konstantellos, R Kozlowski, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, J Pierce, M Pontikes, A Rizos, T Sikoral

Absent: A Demeros, N Gianaris

**Minutes:** January 2018 minutes were reviewed, discussed, and corrected for typos, grammatical errors and additions/omissions.

**Motion:** To approve corrected minutes: G Giolas / 2nd A Koutsikos **Vote:** 17-0-1 **Pass**

**Correspondence**

- 1) Donation request from Little City; discussion had that donation would be made in memory of George Alexander; unanimous decision to table until next meeting.
- 2) Announcement for IOCC Annual Banquet on April 26, 2018 at Cafe la Cave
- 3) Annual request for Special Olympics of Illinois
- 4) Thank you letter from Martha and Mary Maternity House for prior donation.
- 5) Thank you letter from Cross Roads Summer Institute of Hellenic College for prior donation
- 6) Donation acknowledgement from Orthodox Christian Mission Center for prior donation

Fr Dean and T Kanelos provided details regarding 3/24/18 Enthronement Ceremony for new Metropolitan. There will be a fundraising drive with details to be announced in the immediate future. There will be a request for 100 contributions of \$1000 to cover expenses related to the enthronement of the new metropolitan. Fr Dean: Committee has been formed, T Kanelos and Fr Dean. PG question: \$100,000 for Enthronement ceremony? TK: It includes the ceremony, banquet, with leftover money left for facility improvement at Metropolis capital.

**Motion:** T Kanelos / 2nd N Andrews: Motion to make a \$1000 contribution toward the enthronement of Metropolitan discussion. **Vote:** 12-4-2 **Pass**

**Treasurer's Report:** Led by D Loomos. The 12/31/17 financial report was reviewed and discussion had. Further discussion that financial committee will determine the appropriate format of the financial reports going forward.

**Motion:** To table 12-31-17 Financial Report made by P Gianopoulos/ 2nd E Kiriazopoulos.  
**Vote:** 13-4-1 **Pass**

## Committee Reports

**Annual Luncheon:** Led by P Giannopoulos. 67th Annual Anniversary Feast Day Celebration had 272 people (51 children). Estimate net income at \$23-24,000 (\$38,755 gross with estimated expenses of \$15,693, Adbook income \$17,500). Our admissions cost covered the venue.

**Outreach Committee:** Led by J Pierce: Thoughts of having a cookout after Church Service to go to tables to discuss about Outreach. Uncle Pete's Ministry. Outreach has done a few coffee hours. Fr George has done Uncle Pete's with GOYA before, successfully. Good outreach opportunity, may cost about \$3 per meal

**Phase III:** P Giannopoulos finalized foundation drawings are ready to be submitted to the village of Niles to approve plans for the foundation as well as water retention management. We can break ground with those drawings. Once designs are completed for the structure then will go to the general contractor to bid out. Finalizing the drawings for the rest of the structure. Trying to schedule a groundbreaking in spring. It will not start unless we can get a loan. The hope is to build as funding comes in once foundation is completed. Discussion had as to any effects of construction on Food Fest

**Phase III Communication Committee:** Led by G Giolas/Koz. First Newsletter. Intent is to provide monthly updates with regards to Phase III status. Trying all avenues to communicate, from mailing, on the website, also via email. Discussed inserting 1st newsletter in the march Visions. Question raised whether there should be a way for parishioners to make comments.

**Buildings & Grounds:** T Karabatsos: Started work on the bathroom in the cry room. There was sewer related water issues in the cry room. Narthex was painted about 3 weeks ago. Electrical issues/outlet plates being changed by M Pontikes

**Iconography:** Led by T Bournias. Waiting for the entire committee to get together for formal first meeting. Already over 60% pledged out of the \$250,000 total cost needed to complete iconography over the altar.

**By-Laws Review:** Led by T Kanelos. Discussion Regarding suggested changes to parish by-Laws. Any Changes will have to go to GA for approval. Handout provided with change of verbiage--highlighted in pink. In particular language of the members of the Parish Council....has to be amended before we take a mortgage loan for Phase III. Yellow items are housekeeping. Discussion regarding the various items.

**Stewardship Update:** Led by G Giolas. Stewardship committee meeting next week. From 1-1-18 through 2-16-18 \$169,776 by 236 stewards. Current pledges are \$60,000 more than last year this time with approximately 60-65 more stewardship pledges. All updated on website, facebook, bulletin etc. Re-evaluating the direction of the committee by trying to reach out to Stewards to get them more involved in the church. There is also item on the carousel that online payment is available.

**Finance Committee:** Koz reached out to T Sikoral, T Bournias, N Gianaris, and L Konstantellos to participate. Once these possible members agree to serve on the committee, they can choose the chairman. Led by L Konstantellos. The main objectives that the committee would oversee would include 1) Budget 2) Food Fest Optimization 3) Financial Reporting 4) Phase III (provided handout). The goal is to try to streamline the processes involving the treasurers to alleviate some of the workload and create standard processes for certain treasury related items. Discussion regarding finding best interest rates for Savings/CDs. Suggestions to ask non-Parish Council members for help/expertise to join the subcommittees listed above.

**Fest Optimization Findings:** Led by L Konstantellos. Went over presented items in handout for recommendations. Discussion with various costs associated with Food Festival. Ask more people to see if we can get more items donated, which will have the biggest impact. Sponsors? Marketing department from US Bank, other companies? Stress importance of maintaining good relationships with current food donors, etc.

### **For the Good of the Parish**

- 1) Food Fest 2018: Discussed need to make decision regarding raffle prizes. Need to set dates for the early bird raffle drawing. Food fest meeting scheduled.
- 2) Lamb Roast Competition: Dates for the Lamb Roast? E Kiriazopoulos appointed by Koz to head the Lamb Roast Competition. Next task is to find out who would like to be in competition, and pick a date.
- 3) Discussion at length with regards to hosting Bright Friday event.
- 4) E Kiriazopoulos is also looking into Fall Fest, she already has a few donors. It will be a one day event. A Koutsikos: What about having a fall fest in conjunction with the celebration of Holy Taxiarchai in November? Discussion: Because of lots of time conflicts with Thanksgiving and Smoker event, among other Christmas functions it may be difficult.

**Parish Council Meeting Dates** for the year, presented and led by Koz: The goal is to have a separate budget meeting, October 10, 2018. Suggestion to move the budget meeting to November, that is when we have all the financial numbers are in. Koz will look into it, brief discussion regarding Thanksgiving and Smoker event timing conflicts.

### **Priest Comments**

- 1) Sunday of Orthodoxy is 2-25-18. Pan Orthodox Sunday Service will be held at St Constantine & Helen: \$35 donation to attend.
- 2) On 3-15-18 Missions team Chicago will hold dinner event at St John, Bishop Athanasios from Africa will be the speaker. Studied at our seminary in Boston.
- 3) Mar 24, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral, for the Enthronement of the new Metropolitan followed by luncheon (\$125) at the Hilton in Chicago.

Fr George: Sr GOYA to Boston for another outreach service project. 22 Goyans, 4 chaperones are signed up. They will be visiting the seminary, attending services, and visiting Metropolitan

among other activities. The cost will be about \$550-625 per kid. The trip is April 19-22, 2018. Philoptochos gave a donation, so it brought it down by about \$80 a person. They have done fundraising via car wash, Portillo's.

**Motion** to approve \$2600 for Senior GOYA trip to Boston from the Youth Budget: T Sikoral/ 2nd T Kanelos **Vote:** Unanimous **Pass**.

**Motion** to adjourn A Rizos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote:** Unanimous **Pass** 10:58pm

Closing Prayers by Father Dean

**Open Items:**

- 1) Group retreat for Parish Council
- 2) School programs being assessed
- 3) Basketball Hoop -->To carry over to the next meeting
- 4) Donation request for Little City

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Ioannou, Recording Secretary  
Argy Koutsikos, Assistant Secretary