

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2018**

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council Meeting began with Father Dean leading Prayer at 7:40pm. Father George was also present.

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

Absent: A Demeros, P Giannopoulos, N Gianaris T Karabatsos, A Koutsikos, T Sikoral

President's Remarks: R Kozlowski wished members a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Kali Hronia!

Motion To approve November 28th Parish Council Minutes made by N Andrews / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote:** 9-0-2 **Pass**

Correspondence

Donations requested by:

- 1) Lions Club of Niles
- 2) Orthodox Christian Ministry
- 3) Syrian American Medical Society
 - a) Donation requests of \$25, \$50 and up
- 4) Hellenic Student Association (HSA) of Chicago will be hosting the 15th Annual Youth Ball in February benefitting the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and the Apostoli (the humanitarian arm of the Archdiocese of Athens).

Motion to make a \$200 donation to HSA of Greater Chicago made by L Konstantellos / 2nd T Kanelos **Vote** Unanimously **Pass**

Committee Reports

Anniversary Dinner

E Kiriazopoulos: Our 68th Anniversary Dinner will take place on February 10, 2019 at the Meridian. Our cost will be \$50 per plate. Dinner changed a little bit but everything else is the same. Considering charging \$85 per guest.

Ad Book: Has to be completed by 2/4/19. Chair of the album will be L Konstantellos and E Kiriazopoulos

Motion to charge \$75 per ticket for the Anniversary Dinner to be held on 2/10/19: N Andrews / 2nd M Pontikes **Vote** 10-2-0 **Pass**

Stewardship Report

As of 12/19/18, 631 families committed a total of \$367, 408. Average of \$582/family
Last year at 12/18/17, 642 families committed a total of \$325,238. Average of \$506/family
2019: Meeting Jan 11th for Stewardship Committee. To discuss marketing and trying to incorporate more Stewardship Sundays.

We want to encourage weekly giving of Stewardship. The Check-list that was sent is being well received. A board will be put up. Positive ways for parishioners to become more engaged in the church. New ministries pamphlet which have a description of current ministries to help people and the community know what we are doing.

Financial Reports

\$123,000 in the operating account, will take out about \$35,000 after payroll
Capital Projects: (non-specified capital improvements) AC/Heating. Can't use the money to repair, but can use it to replace an AC for example.

Q: Was the Retreat Center check sent in? Need to check the records, it would be in December financials.

Archdiocese Commitment is off by about \$7,000. Total amount should be the same as 2017 in 2018. They send statements.

Motion to approve the financials for November: G Giolas / 2nd G Houpis to **Vote** Unanimous 14-0-0 **Pass**. Gift from MB Financials brought to meeting (gift basket)

Phase III: Presented by T Kanelos, from email sent by Perry. Mr. Pappas is reviewing the value engineering of the project. This has a potential savings of \$100,000. We are asked to be patient. \$4 million current anticipated cost. Meeting will take place on Friday (12/21/18).

Fundraising: Led by L Konstantellos. An informational email was sent to the parish council members. 4 main categories (from email sent December 19th):

1. Community fundraisers throughout the year (\$20k in budget)
2. Phase 3 fundraising
3. Foundations and Endowments
4. Further support for existing fundraisers

Community fundraising. Allocated \$20,000 that we would like to generate as fundraising. To look more into endowment funds and continue to support existing fundraisers. Discussion about Bright Friday and/or Lamb Cook-off. L Konstantellos offered to look into it and be chairman. Fundraisers for Phase III and fundraisers for Operating Fund should be separate.

Other: We used to have dinners after church that we made \$1000-\$2000 at a time.

Phase III: Is there a list of pledges made at the Gala?

Fall Food Fest: E Kiriazopoulos will prepare a bullet outline of the Fall Food event.

Outreach: Presented by J Pierce: we collected 118 coats; thank you, Argy. Meals on Wheels schedule/dates: First is to line up a cook; Second, the cook picks a date; Third, need to assemble delivery volunteers to deliver on that date. We never know how many people we are going to deliver to until Wednesday before the Saturday of Meals on Wheels. January 19th, 2019 is next date.

We need additional helpers to deliver Meals. It may be a good idea to have a signup sheet outside the office.

Building & Grounds: Thank you to the Kozlowskis for the wreaths inside and outside the church. M Pontikes to check the schedule of the church this week to change out some of the lamps on the chandeliers.

Priests Remarks: Merry Christmas: Season of Forgiveness and Mercy. Presentation Dec 1st discussed forgiveness.

Consider having additional Parish Council meeting for spirituality, with a separate agenda: Stewardship or other things we feel like we can implement for the good of the Parish.

Office staff: Barbara wants to cut her schedule by two hours per week. We would like to offer those hours to Anna. It doesn't affect the budget.

Harlem Globetrotter Game, 108 tickets sold, deadline is Friday (12/21/18); game is December 27th. Tickets are \$25 to promote fellowship Allstate Arena, we have our own section.

Greek Comedian is coming in February, Angelo Tsarouhas. \$20 for every ticket we sell goes to the church.

Open Items:

- 1) To research/compare current credit card (Capital One) with a new card to earn 1% cash back
- 2) Donation Kiosk: if we can lock it on the donation web-page to give people the ability to make general payments. Customizable of the different kinds of donations. Electronic on the receipts.
- 3) Should we have General Assemblies more frequently for informational purposes? Would be good idea to have ministry reports. If we vote on anything, the agenda has to include items to be voted on. We can consider a "State of the Parish" meeting, dinner, Q & A. Gets the word out and makes people understand more.
- 4) Audit Reports: Can report be completed by Feb/March? Treasurer, office, and the accountant. Everything has to be consolidated and put together: the redbook, bank statement, savings account statements, credit card statements, yellow receipt books, payroll, bank statements. Get an email out with what is needed for Audit report so that it can be completed earlier in the year.
- 5) Meals on Wheels signup sheet on bulletin board
- 6) Lamb Cook-Off
- 7) Additional Parish Council meeting(s) focused on spirituality?
- 8) Approval of closed session meeting minutes (personnel and Budget)

Motion to Adjourn

A Rizos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote Unanimously Pass**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Ioannou,
Recording Secretary