

# HOLY TAXIARHAI and SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 23, 2018

## Commencement of Meeting

The General Assembly meeting began with Father Dean leading prayer at 7:36pm

## Election of Meeting Officers

**Motion:** P Giannopoulos nominated Richard Kozlowski to be chairman of the General Assembly. He accepted. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** E Kiriazopoulos nominated Krystal Ioannou to be the Assembly Secretary. She accepted. There were no other nominations.

**Motion** to table the minutes of the December 2017 General Assembly. T Kanelos / E Kiriazopoulos **Vote: Unanimous Pass**

**Proposed Amendments to Parish By-Laws** were presented by T Kanelos. The proposed changes had been mailed out on May 8 with the agenda, and copies of the changes were distributed to the General Assembly.

Mr Kanelos explained that the first three items were simple “housekeeping” matters. The remaining amendments were discussed in detail, with these additions/clarifications:

- Minutes should be posted on website 10 days after approval.
- Closed session to be declared in Regular minutes but details kept in file, not posted on website or published. Discussion had as to when to go in and out of closed session, such as when there are legal matters overseen by an attorney, for example lawsuits.

## All the changes that were proposed are as follows (changes in italics):

1. Update all references of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America to “the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.” (Preamble)
2. Update all references of the Bishop to “the Metropolitan.” (Article VI, Section 1)
3. Update zip code of the church address to 60714. (Article I)
4. Amend Article VI, Section 2 to read:  
The Parish Council conducts business in open session. At its discretion, business may be conducted in closed session, ~~provided closed session is announced and five days notification is given.~~ *where sensitive issues are involved such as employee issues or legal matters. Such closed session must have detailed minutes which are not published or posted on the website, but which are kept in the file of approved minutes.*
5. Amend Article VII, Section 7 to read:  
The SECRETARY shall keep minutes of the Parish Council meetings and Parish Assemblies, keep the minutes available to all members for inspection, *and assure that the minutes are posted on the parish website within 10 days of their approval,* see that required notices are fully given, have custody of records, maintain membership rolls, and in general, perform all duties incident to the office.

6. Amend Article VII, Section 9 to read:

**ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT**, ASSISTANT TREASURERS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES shall perform duties assigned to them by the Treasurer or Secretary respectively, or by the President.

7. Amend Article IX, Section 4 to read:

(~~Membership~~) **Participation** in any approved organization shall be open to all (~~members~~) **Stewards** of the Community and their immediate families.

8. Amend Article X, Section 1 concerning contracts:

The Parish Council may authorize any officer or officers or agent to enter any contract and execute and deliver any instrument in the name of the Parish. Such authority must be confined to specific instances and may not exceed the aggregate sum of (~~\$15,000.00~~) **\$35,000.00** within any fiscal year, exclusive of budget items.

9. Amend Article X, Section 2 concerning indebtedness:

No loan shall be contracted and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in the name of the Parish unless authorized by a resolution of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is responsible to call a Parish Assembly to receive specific authority for any loans or evidence of indebtedness in excess of (~~\$10,000.00~~) **\$25,000.00**.

10. Amend the Parish By-Laws to eliminate Article X, Section 3:

“The members of the Parish Council shall become signees for any mortgage in effect for church property.”

11. Amend Article XII, Section 3 to read:

No amendment to the By-Laws may be considered at any Parish Assembly unless written notice thereof has first been given to all (~~members~~) **stewards** at least ten days prior to said Assembly.

**Motion:** Tom Kanelos moved, and Christ Balabanos seconded, to approve these By-Law changes as amended at this General Assembly.

**Vote: Pass** 93-0-2

**Presentation of Phase III** via Powerpoint by P Giannopoulos

Key Points: Project was approved for approximately \$6 million with financing not to exceed 40% of the cost of the project. Not enough money has been raised to proceed with full scale of original plan. The objective of the presentation is to present options and do a formal poll. The original plan was to start construction in July.

Multipurpose Room/Gym for the building of a stage discussion took place, with a thorough review of different options and costs with those options. There is limited space in the multipurpose room because there needs to be a 6 foot clearance of the court boundaries. The two main options were as follows:

- 1) To redesign the multipurpose room (extend size).
  - costly option with minimum cost of \$250,000 additional costs.
  - Affects the parking spaces

- 2) Relocation of the stage to the middle building on the 2nd floor. 16 feet deep, 48 feet long
- There is enough room for seating of approximately 312 folding chairs
  - Strong aluminum
  - Still room for classrooms in the back, perhaps using partitions
  - Room for refreshments or additional seating
  - 12 foot ceiling to 13 feet 9 inches to the bottom of the beams depending on the ceiling.

**Question and Answer:**

Q: Is the load going to support extra weight?

A: Yes, and no fire hazard. Will double check the weight

Q: Replacing other stage that was originally planned for the Multipurpose room?

A: We can leave space for a stage, but the plan would be to replace original plan

Q: Would this be a permanent stage, is it movable?

A: It would stay as built

Q: Will there be an elevator? How quick can we get people in and out of the Youth Center, especially with the elderly that will be attending school performances?

A: There are plans for 2 stairways and 1 elevator

Q: Would the start date be impacted if we put the stage in the Youth Center?

A: The start date of the project can begin in July

Comment (from the General Assembly): Maybe with more stewards we would be able to afford a nicer stage, but the funds are not available. There are also modular stages that perhaps we as individuals can investigate and learn about further. They may allow the church to make better use of space.

Q: How much space will the stage take out of the Youth Center?

A: The center will lose about 16 feet, from 60x47 feet to approximately 40x47 feet.

The initial plan was to have open space with ping-pong table, modular seating, couch.

Discussion had at length with regards to stage and timeline, functional difference between a temporary stage and a permanent stage (no difference functionally-speaking).

**Poll:** After extensive discussion, the members of the Assembly were polled about the two options:

- 1) Redesign multipurpose room to accommodate a permanent stage – 15 in favor
- 2) Relocate the stage within the existing design – 59 in favor
- 3) Abstain --4 abstentions

**Phase III Powerpoint Presentation Continued:** Brief overview of the history of the parish and how it has grown. Given the funds available, construction would be able to proceed with a phased approach. Benefits of the new building would be the following:

- There are currently 240 students, expansion would allow to better serve the school and increase classroom size and availability.
- Connect with those that come through our parish (weddings, baptisms)
- When people are involved, the connection to God and Christ is stronger
- Resolve our small dining area which cannot accommodate the size of our Parish
- 95% of ticket prices for luncheons and anniversary gala go towards the hall

Pledges have not met our goal yet, so we have to use a phased approach. The original plan included renovating the community room but that will not take place right now. The

footprint will remain the same with 200 parking spots (50 spots more than now). Some items in plan will not be built on Day 1, but the space will be there. Classrooms will be easy to finish when funds permit. They will meet DCFS standards. The stage will be on the second floor. The basement will be the full length of the middle building.

Right now the phased construction will cost about \$3.5 to \$4 million. Regarding the financing, the \$2 million that we have raised will be used first. We will have a line of credit with the bank as construction proceeds and we will borrow up to \$900,000. Financing is about 6% for 25 years.

R Kozlowski thanked P Giannopoulos for the presentation which will be available online. P Giannopoulos thanked and acknowledged the Building Committee members:

- Rich Kozlowski
- Tom Kanelos
- Ted Karabatsos
- Mike Pontikes
- Steffan Aliferakis
- Angelo Demeros
- Architect Bill Kokkalias

**Motion** to approve and move forward with the design changes and phased construction by Kathy Limnios/ 2nd E Kozlowski

Discussion on the motion. Do we have a completion date?

A: Unfortunately we cannot put a timeline on it

**Vote: 49-0-4 Pass**

Father Dean finished meeting with closing statements and prayers at 10:45pm

**Motion** to Adjourn: A Rizos / 2nd A Koutsikos **Pass: Unanimous**

Respectively submitted,

Krystal Ioannou,  
Assembly Secretary