Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024

Present – Fr Chris, Jim Stavrou, Elaine Simadis, Gerry Galatis, Leo Bezanis, Liz Christofylakis, Mark Dinos, Angelo Fotopoulos, Peter Kaftanzis, Janet Kolipoulos, Sue Kouchis, Andy Sampalis, Tony Vouris, Sandy Chakonas, George Lattas, Gus Kapsaskis, Effie Panos, Telly Visvardis.

Meeting called to order – 6:42pm. Opening prayer by Fr. Chris.

Oath of office administered to Effie Panos, Tom Berchos and Telly Visvardis.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of 1/7/24 by Tony Vouris; Second by Sue Kouchis. Motion unanimous. Telly Visvardis abstained.

1. Pastoral Report

Fr. Chris offers a plea to this PC as we start the new term to challenge themselves to step up their game. Hard work will be needed in many different areas from fundraising and stewardship and outreach perspectives among others.

Our community and stewards can grow if all PC members focus on these needs. It is our calling as Orthodox Christians.

We all have skills and talents and need to use them for our parish and parish council. We also need to reach out to others with various skills for the betterment of the community.

Gus Kapsaskis asks about the Metropolis possible mandate regarding term limits. Fr. Chris clarifies that we will look into it, but each parish will be able to regulate itself.

1. President’s Report

Jim discussed a recent invitation to attend a presentation from the metropolis regarding a new metropolis center to possibly be housed by a local parish in the Chicagoland area. Jim, George Lattas, Leo Bezanis, Mark Dinos and Fr. Chris attended. Each parish is encouraged (only if it wants) to submit a proposal by March 11, 2024. Geroge Lattas expanded on the vision of the metropolis.

In the church office, Savoula Eliopoulos has been hired to work in the church office again based on needs that are present. She will begin January 17, 2024. Violet works 3 days per week. Savoula will work the other 2 days. Most of her work will involve Realm and some other office duties.

February 5 and 6 is the Strategic Plan. It is mostly related to the school, but there are implications regarding the entire campus and facilities. Per Liz, as many PC members as possible should attend and offer their input. Stakeholders throughout the parish have been invited to attend and participate.

Parea Super Bowl Party February 11, 2024.

Apokreatiko dance March 2, 2024.

East room updated from Tony Vouris. Door wraps from Pete Kouchis. Samples forthcoming to determine what color palette would work best. Baseboard work around the room needs to be completed along with stage steps runners and front of the stage. Dedication to Graven Family can be scheduled after work is completed.

Festival is in August. Mark Dinos and Elaine Simadis will chair but we need a third person is needed.

A couple meetings ago, we approved to give Holy Trinity church 1 month mortgage. Elaine reached out to the treasurer. Apparently they didn’t know anything about this. The priest was collecting money for this without having explained anything to the PC. We still have not received any word about where to send the money. We had voted to pay the mortgage directly, not just send money to the parish. Fr Chris will talk to the PC president there about getting clarification.

1. Financials

Elaine highlights that the report that is presented every month is a cash report. We focus on cash in and cash out.

Endowment – Church - $1.58 million

School - $1.375 million

Remainder of Financial report consistent with financials disclosed via email.

1. Committee Discussions

Identified committees:

School Board – Already set

Human Resources (Sandy to oversee)

Investments (Steve Argires, Ari Paxinos, Andy Sampalis)

Fundraising (with capital campaign – Likely to be spearheaded by George Lattas and Liz Christofylakis with significant other involved; will be started after results of the Strategic Plan are received and reviewed)

Maintenance (Pete Kaftanzis, Telly Visvardis, Sandy Chakonas, Bill Lalezas and others to be added). Also February 19 there will be a walk through to complete a spec of HVAC work to be done.

There is also a window from January 29-February 16 for the baptismal font to be repaired.

Welcoming (Handmaiden supervisors Deanne Savide, Janet Koliopoulos, Stacy Angelopoulos)

Philanthropy (George Lattas, Janet Koliopoulos, Rena Limperis, Dimitra Spandonidis)

Youth/Athletics (Theo, George Crosby, Christopher Crosby, Andy Kladis)

Stewardship (Sue Kouchis)

2023 final numbers

Income - $345,734.79

586 stewards

50 gave less than $100

Average give is $644 (removing outlier 50 people)

2024 so far - $59,442 over 106 stewards

Family Ministry (Fr Chris, Theo)

Religious Education (Fr Nicholas)

Technology (Liz Christofylakis, Demitri Andricopoulos, Gus Kapsaskis)

House (Tony Vouris, Tom Berchos, Mark Dinos)

Security (Gerry Galatis)

Beautification (Penny Vitogianis)

Legal

Idea is to get parish members on many of these committees with the PC on them and as liaisons.

Additional idea is to reach out to the community for volunteers and getting new people involved on some of the committees. We don’t need help in all areas.

Meeting Adjourned –

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Dinos