**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Palos Hills, IL

February 13, 2023

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**PRESENT: ABSENT:**

Fr. Nicholas Dahdal Andy Kladis Angelo Fotopoulos

Demitri Andrikopoulos George Lattas Janet Koliopoulos

Tom Berchos Mike Orrico Sue Kouchis

Leo Bezanis Effie Panos Telly Visvardis

Liz Christofylakis Andy Sampalis

Mark Dinos Elaine Simadis

Gerry Galatis Jim Stavrou

Peter Kaftantzis Tony Vouris

Gus Kapsaskis

I. Jim Stavrou, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with opening prayer led by Fr. Nicholas. The meeting commenced with 16 members present.

II. Mark Dinos made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting. Elaine Simadis seconded the motion. The motion carries.

III. Pastoral report delivered by Fr. Nicholas

1. Services are improving with an increase in Altar Boys. The Handmaidens are now reading Epistles from the Pulpit up on the solea.
2. Planning an overnight retreat on Good Friday – will be for anyone over the age of 13 years old. Anyone under the age of 13 will be welcomed but with an adult to accompany them.
3. Welcoming committee for the parish needs to improve, there is a lack in this area. We need to be always present and attentive to our guests.
4. Duties of the office staff have been divided:

* Vanessa will continue to serve as Office Manager
* Violet will handle all sacrament appointments and Metropolis paperwork
* Kay will answer phones, accept, and provide receipts for any payments dropped off to the office and will send thank you letters.

IV. President’s report delivered by Jim Stavrou

1. General Assembly to take place on March 5, 2023 after divine liturgy.
2. With Lent approaching, we need help from all PC members for all services.
3. Going forward, a great number of duties that were placed in the hands of the office staff will be redistributed to be overseen by members of the Parish Council and their committee members as follows:

* Maintenance Committee (Peter Kaftantzis PC & Telly Visvardis PC) – will order all supplies and deal directly with vendors for maintenance pertaining to the entire complex.
* Safety Committee (Gerry Galatis PC)– will oversee Fob access requests and safety.
* Technology Committee (Demitri Andrikopoulos PC & Gus Kapsaskis PC) – will oversee Church’s website (postings), Onward, Internet, Phone Systems, PTZ Camera, Constant Contact.
* Social Media Committee (Liz Christofylakis PC) – oversee Facebook and Instagram accounts.

V. Financial report delivered by Elaine Simadis

1. Receipt book in place in Church office for any payments received.
2. Working on getting structure in place for when funds are taken in and recorded.
3. Need to create a process for purchasing – who approves orders and payments.
4. Budget put together for the year. Broken down in depth, we need $160k-200k to operate the building each month this figure includes payroll, insurance, utilities etc. Best case scenario, we will be down $100k this year.
5. In January, we sent $120,000 to school endowment and $180,400 to church endowment.

VI. Stewardship/Philanthropy report delivered by George Lattas

1. As of January 31, 2023, we have 129 paid stewards with an average give of $682.45.
2. The Metropolis campaign for Stewardship this year is Now & Forever Campaign – no minimum stewardship, give what you can – which is what we have been doing for several years.
3. George recommended Deanne Savide to lead our welcoming ministry along with one PC member, yet to be named.
4. March 18, 2023, will be our annual Feed 6 event – preparing 100k meals, double what we did last year. Cost is $0.35 per meal which we should be able to offset through fundraising efforts prior and on day of event. This is event is open to all parishes.
5. We continue to do our monthly ministry at Beds Plus where we feed 35 min in Brookfield, IL.
6. Mark Dinos asked about potential Easter appeal this year – George stated would be included with letter for stewardship.

VII: Old Business

1. Brick Paver/East Room Beautification – Tony Vouris
2. Working on getting quotes. Net proceeds of Apokreatiko event will go towards beautification project.
3. 2 Bricks need to be replaced due to misprint. Also, will be installing the two 8x10 yard signs around the trees.
4. Additional bricks have been sold; Tony is waiting on these forms as he needs to get into printer by end of February.
5. Waiting on updated example of a 5x7 plaque to replace the existing smaller ones installed due to complaints from donors due to the current size. Additional cost may be around $1,500 to change these out.
6. Maintenance – Peter Kaftantzis
7. Sandy Chakonas has agreed to come back in a volunteer role to help assist the maintenance committee as the day-to-day liaison to be able to meet with vendors as needed and to order supplies as needed. Fr. Nicholas suggested using Sandy as the point person for all ordering.
8. Office remodel is about 80% complete.
9. Baptismal font needs repair, work is currently underway.
10. Offer Maintenance Personnel position to an individual that was interviewed however that individual was not able to accept the position due to an unforeseen circumstance. Will continue to look for potential candidate.

VIII: New Business:

1. Festival – Elaine Simadis / Gerry Galatis
2. Will be holding a leader meeting on March 9, 2023 for all individuals who operate an important area of the festival. Will have more to report at next meeting.
3. Golf Outing – George Lattas
   1. Looking to book a date in late May or early June – more to come.
4. YAL Donation – Tony Vouris
5. **MOTION –** Tony Vouris made a motion to donate $250 to upcoming YAL convention taking place weekend of February 17, 2023. Andrew Sampalis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX: Adjournment:

George Lattas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Leo Bezanis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Submitted by Gerry Galatis

March 1, 2023