

**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Palos Hills, IL

May 9, 2023

7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:**

Fr. Nicholas Dahdal	Peter Kaftantzis
Demitri Andrikopoulos	Effie Panos
Tom Berchos	Andy Sampalis
Leo Bezanis	Jim Stavrou
Mark Dinos	Telly Visvardis
Gerry Galatis	Tony Vouris
Gus Kapsaskis	Elaine Simadis
Andy Kladis	
Sue Kouchis	

**ABSENT:**

Mike Orrico  
Janet Koliopoulos  
Liz Christofylakis  
Angelo Fotopoulos  
George Lattas

- I. Jim Stavrou, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. The meeting commenced with 14 members present.
- II. Effie Panos made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting. Sue Kouchis seconded the motion. The motion carries.
- III. Pastoral report delivered by Fr. Nicholas
  - a. Congratulated Fr. Chris on the appointment by the Metropolitan as our new Prosestaminos to take effect June 1.
  - b. Attended the clergy retreat – in the metropolis, only 10% are attending church. It's an issue across the board. We have 170 students in Koraes and our attendance numbers are still low.
  - c. Most parishes do not have a strategic plan including ours – what do we want to see from our church in 10 years. Elaine Simadis asked about the strategic plan of the Metropolis – answer, they are working on it.
  - d. There are 3 models of the church:
    1. Daddy – the priest handles everything
    2. Chapel – few families that essentially do everything
    3. Empowerment – the church empowers the people – everyone understands they are important to the parish
  - e. Since 2017, our church has done 206 baptisms; 272 funerals; 85 weddings.
- IV. President's report delivered by Jim Stavrou

- a. June 4 will be Fr. Chris' first service – the Parea Men's Group to host the luncheon after church. We need to make sure we have everything set for Fr. Chris on his first day including email, fob to access building, computer etc.
- b. Juen 7 there will be a bus to the Greek Consulate.
- c. Junior Olympics to once again take place Memorial Day Weekend – we are once again serving as the host Parish for this event.

V. Financial report delivered by Elaine Simadis

- a. We made payroll in April however will not make it in May – will need to put in for our 5% annual draws from the 2 endowments per our bylaws.

VI. Stewardship/Philanthropy report delivered by Jim Stavrou

- a. As of May 9, 2023, we have 370 paid stewards. George was not able to attend meeting so we do not have official figure of funds.
- b. We once again donated to Beds Plus in the month of May – food was ordered through Mickey's Gyros of Shorewood – Tony Baffes.
- c. Child at Koraes who would like to attend fanari camp and has asked for assistance financially – Philoptochos has already agreed to pay from portion, Parish will cover the remainder.

VII: Old Business

- 1. East Room Beautification – Tony Vouris
  - a. Tom Manikas attended the meeting to go over his ideas of his plans for the beautification project itself. He did mention that the wall on the South should be addressed due to possible damage. Jim asked if possible to have project completed before the festival and Tom stated as long as he can get everything ordered in time, should be no problem. Vote still needs to take place on entire project.
- 2. Maintenance – Telly Visvardis/ Peter Kaftantzis
  - a. Sellas should be completing office project before June 1.
  - b. Patching of the parking lot should be taking place within the next month.
  - c. Patio work should begin soon – we are waiting on the company that the donor has provided to begin.
  - d. Telly Visvardis to get quotes for the railings in front of the church to be completed replaced.
- 3. Golf Outing – Jim Stavrou
  - a. Due to time constraints and overall feedback, the golf outing has been moved to September 21, 2023 at The Odyssey.

4. Festival – Gerry Galatis/Elaine Simadis
  - a. Met with all the various groups to discuss their needs for the festival – will be meeting again on June 12 to discuss ordering of food.
  - b. All big-ticket items have been secured including tents, music entertainment for both nights and entertainment for the kids. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure a new gaming company due to the scheduling conflicts. Gerry talked to 8 different companies, and they were either booked or our event was too small for them to consider us.

VIII: New Business:

1. House Committee – Tony Vouris
  - a. **MOTION:** Mark Dinos made a motion to switch to beewax candles with the vendor to be finalized by House Committee. Conversion will take place once we have depleted our current supply. Sue Kouchis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Security – Gerry Galatis
  - a. Had our annual meeting with School Principals, Palos Hills Police and Fire Dept to discuss safety within the complex. We need to ensure that every individual entering the building is clearly identified and has a purpose to be visiting. If there is no purpose, they should not be granted access to enter.
  - b. Recommended that we put buzzers in the vestibules so if someone does enter the main door, they would need to be buzzed in again to enter the lobby for additional security.
  - c. Need to address/discuss the need for some type of fire alarm in the church as there is none existent right now.

IX: Adjournment:

Demitri Andrikopoulos moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tony Vouris seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Submitted by Gerry Galatis  
May 23, 2023