

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2024

Present – Rev. Father Chris Avramopoulos, Rev. Father Nicholas Dahdal, Jim Stavrou, Elaine Simadis, Leo Bezanis, Liz Christofylakis, Sue Kouchis, Andy Sampalis, Sandy Chakonas, George Lattas, Gus Kapsaskis, Telly Visvardis, Tom Berchos, Janet Koliopoulos.

Meeting called to order – 6:50pm. Opening prayer by Fr. Chris.

George Lattas gave a joint presentation to the Parish Council and invited Koraes School Board about service and review of the organizational structure, governance & bylaws of the church & metropolis.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion – Sue Kouchis

Second – Andy Sampalis

Approved - Unanimously

2. Nomination of Secretary

The Executive Committee nominated Gus Kapsaskis for Secretary to fill a vacancy. Gus accepted the nomination and was voted unanimously.

3. Pastoral Report

Fr. Chris spoke about the beginning of the Lenten cycle and the power and importance of forgiveness, repentance, treating one another well and working to increase our spiritual well-being for the purpose of getting closer to God for our spiritual betterment. As Parish Council members we need to lead by example, participate in services and be prepared to receive eucharist, for the purpose of coming closer to Christ.

4. President Report

- Feed 6 event is this Saturday 11 to 1 and welcome participation from the Parish Council
- Jim Stavrou emphasized the importance of showing up & PC participation on Sunday, especially during the upcoming Lenten season.

- Elaine emphasized that as leaders the PC needs to be examples of leadership by being in attendance.
- Father Chris mentioned the idea of leadership training for all PC members in the near future.

## 5. Stewardship – Sue Kouchis

First meeting was Feb 28th – 18 people. It was a very energetic meeting, discussing the three pillars of the stewardship plan - Clear Communication, Engagement & Involvement, Gratitude, and Recognition.

270 Stewards to date totaling \$154,271 to date and our goal is \$420,000 by October. Amongst the near-term initiatives:

- Stewardship pamphlet
- Report of top stewards
- Identify those who have not renewed stewardship for soft touches to reengage.

## 6. Delegations of Authority policy - George Lattas

- We are still working on the details regarding parameters with contracts and leases to be complied by the office for review.

## 7. Financial Report

Elaine Simadis provided a budget for 2024. It does not include anything for a capital campaign as that group needs to meet and determine its goals.

Highlights of the budget include:

- Goal of \$420,00 for stewardship
- Note that too much of the budget is reliant on fundraising versus known income.
- Need to move to a much higher percentage of income to come from stewardship.
- Facilities and Operations assessments are approximately \$450,000.
- Utilities are budgeted at \$140,000.

## 8. Maintenance Committee –Telly Visvardis

For the HVAC project:

- Still working on clarification on bids but thus far we have 3 bids between \$370,000 & \$400,000,
- Committee expects to review the bids, forward to PC with recommendations prior to the next PC meeting.
- A zoom meeting will follow for a vote after recommendation and EC review.

For the roof repair project:

- Waiting for a manufacturer representative to come and create the scope of work in about 2 weeks.
- 4 Vendors have been identified.
- Working on a time-frame as we approach peak season for roofers.
- Roof repairs are still in progress and looking into possible warranty claims.

Narthex Lights:

- Replacement is the next priority.

Pavers:

- Question came up about additional donations for pavers which have been accepted. We need a plan on installation of the paid for pavers that have not been installed. About 20 bricks / \$17,000 in donations remain outstanding for installation. We also need a plan to pressure wash and seal the pavers every 2 years which should fall to the maintenance committee to schedule.

A candidate to be a part-time maintenance worker for the church has been identified. Working on interview date

## 9. Philanthropy – George Lattas

- Feed 6 this Saturday
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Beds Plus order 50 meals to feed people in shelter
- March 26<sup>th</sup> event – Hosting Park Lawn adults with disabilities event & dinner at our parish with an estimated 40 participants.

## 10. Legal Committee:

Motion to accept new Legal Committee formed by George Lattas with 3 advisor volunteers:

- Leo Paul Bezanis
- George Vinihakis
- Basil Manikas

Motion - George Lattas

Second - Tom Berchos  
Approved: unanimously

11. Golf Outing – Leo Bezanis

- Discussions about moving golf outing to Hickory Hills Country Club which is owned by parishioners - Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be officially firmed up this week.
- Parish acknowledges and is extremely grateful for all the support from Odyssey Country Club for the past 25 years.

Move by George Lattas to authorize Leo to sign contract @ \$80 per person.

Second – Elaine Simadis

Approved – Unanimous

12. Apokriatko – Elaine Simadis

- 300 people attended
- Thanked Leo Bezanis and George Lattas for manning the kitchen
- Event raised approx. \$3,000 plus a unanimous \$5,000 donation made to Koraes School.

13. Godparent Sunday – Jim Stavrou & Father Chris

- To be held April 21<sup>st</sup> serving breakfast, i.e. pancakes
- Reservations to be required with tables of 8.

14. Festival – Elaine Simadis will be Chairman August 17 & 18

- Telly Visvardis, Dimitri Andrikopoulos, Liz Christofylakis will be the co-chairmen.

15.. Youth Safety Program

– All PC members required to register and complete the 1- hour training.

15. Website - Liz Christofylakis

- New website to launch this weekend with the old website will be deactivated.
- Dean Christopher professionally designed the web site to launch this weekend. 25 parishioners previewed and made suggestions. Liz will send a preview to PC before the launch

Motion to Adjourn – Sue Kouchis

Second Andy Sempalis

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Gus Kapsaskis