

**St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023**

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Rip Panos — Vice President
Gary Ward — Treasurer
Amin Hanhan
Suzanne Pileggi
Mike Xenick

John Zelatis — President
Marilyn Sandborn — Secretary
Jim Armstrong
Nick Kataras
Alexis Scarfogliero
Vasili Panagopoulos

Absent: Marcelle Triantafilou

A. Prayer, Call to Order and Roll Call of Members present

Fr. Stavros offered the Opening Prayer. The Meeting was called to order by President, John Zelatis at 6:50 pm. The Secretary, Marilyn Sandborn recorded the members present.

B. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Nick K. made a Motion to Approve the PC Minutes from 1/24/23. Amin H. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

C. Priest's Report — See attached

Fr. Stavros reported that he has been especially busy with appointments for Confession. Recently he heard Confession for all the Sunday School students. The recent Orthodoxy 101 class has resulted in a few Chrismations. The recent Men's Retreat had a good turnout. He announced the release of his eighth book, which is a compilation of the reflections about the hymns of Holy Week. Father advised the PC that he would be out of town March 16-18 to participate in a program at Holy Cross Seminary.

D. Officer Reports

1. President's Report — None
2. Treasurer's Report — See Attached

Treasurer Gary W. reported that the year has begun with strong financials, including a good start with stewardship. He pointed out that at this point the Church is ahead of budget in the expense category. He reported income from the Gasparilla parking fundraiser in the amount of \$4,718. The festival numbers have been finalized and the profit came out to \$60,000 (rounded up). This is a profit margin of about 35%.

E. Committee Reports

1. Building and Grounds
 - A. Church Expansion

Rip P. reported that the proposal for the expansion is in process but that the initial draft did not have sufficient detail. He is working on getting the additional information.

B. Hall Bathrooms Repairs and Renovations/ Locker Rooms

While there is still the desire to upgrade the bathrooms, it seems that a more pressing need is to address the foul odor coming from the locker room areas. Vasili P. reported that the odor appears to be from sedentary water that accumulates in the shower drains. In order to run water periodically to flush the drains, the items that are being stored in the locker rooms will need to be relocated. Once that is done, the area can be deep cleaned and the drains flushed. Mike X. agreed to evaluate the current storage situation.

C. Community Center Canopy

John Z. advised that he is expecting to hear something very soon about the insurance claim so that we can move forward with the repair work.

D. Admin Building Canopy and Tarp

Rip P. indicated that the canopy in the courtyard has been replaced. There has been no word from the school about the awning over the entrance. There is nothing to be done in that regard until the school replies.

E. Baptismal Font

Vasili P. reported that the water heater for the baptismal font has been repaired, however the temperature setting needs adjusted. The repairman is scheduled to return.

F. Window and Interior Wall Repair

Rip P. advised that the windows on the east wall of the church have been caulked and the interior walls have been repaired and painted. If these measures do not correct the problem, further work to seal or repair the grout may be necessary.

G. Church Speakers

Vasili P. reported that the speakers have been reconnected/re-wired as needed, however further adjustments are necessary. The repairman will return to complete a thorough sound check.

H. School Grounds

Fr. Stavros advised that the area around the outside of the office and along the sidewalks heading towards the Church looks terrible. There is often spilled food and trash that is left along the sidewalks and rocks from the garden area get kicked all over the sidewalks and in the grass. This needs to be addressed with the school.

2. Stewardship Report — See attached.

President John Z. presented the stewardship report on behalf of the stewardship committee. He noted that the numbers presented are lower when compared to last year. After studying the trends over the past several years he shared his concern that the pledges may be leveling out rather than on an upward trend. People are delaying turning in pledge forms. The Stewardship Committee sent out cards to all stewards of 2022 thanking them for their commitment to the parish and also reminding about turning in new forms for 2023.

F. Old Business

1. Festival Financial and Proceeds

Gary W. reported that the profit from this year's festival was \$60,000 (rounded up). In 2022, a decision was made and announced at the Parish Assembly to donate the festival profit to benefit the community. Life Path Hospice and Love Inc. were initially identified as recipients. Subsequently, Hurricane Ian devastated the Ft. Myers/Naples area and a tremendous need for assistance arose.

Alexis S. made a motion that the festival profit be divided and donated as follows: \$30,000 to Agape Charities (for hurricane relief efforts in the Ft. Myers/Naples area); \$15,000 to Life Path Hospice and \$15,000 to Love, Inc. Gary W. seconded. Motion carried. (unanimous).

G. Regular Business

1. Gasparilla Parking

The parking fundraiser for Gasparilla raised over \$4,700. Thank you to Alex Limberatos and his crew of volunteers.

2. Electronic Communications

Going forward we will begin providing notice of parish assembly meetings by e-mail to all those with e-mail addresses on file. Those who do not have an e-mail address will receive notice by regular mail. In advance of the next parish assembly meeting the parish will be notified that this is the plan and will be asked to verify that their e-mail address is current.

3. Lenten Dinner Schedule

The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent. Following the Liturgy, a dinner will be provided by one of the ministries with a presentation by Fr. Stavros. The ministries are scheduled as follows:

March 1 Sunday School
March 8 Choir
March 15 AHEPA/Daughters
March 22 Young at Heart/Welcome Ministry
March 29 Philoptochos
April 5 Bible Study/Young Adults

4. 3-day Candles

Vasili P. confirmed that he is continuing to order the 3-day vigil candles for the narthex. Ushers should remind the parishioners to take the candles home with them after Liturgy.

H. New Business

1. Office Staff Training

President, John Z. advised that Sandra Pappas has volunteered to oversee the office staff operations to make sure that things are running smoothly and that a plan is put in place for cross training such that Kim, the administrative assistant is familiar with the bookkeeping and other functions that are performed by Debbie. This will ensure that when Debbie takes her vacation this summer, the office can continue to operate in her absence. Sandra will create an overview of office operations so it is clear what functions everyone is performing and where there may be gaps. She will also be looking at alternatives to the PDS software and whether it would be advisable to consider a change. Finally, she is reviewing data input in

PDS to ensure that the reports generated are accurate. In furtherance of performing these functions she requested permission to access PDS on her laptop.

Jim A. made a motion that Sandra Pappas be permitted access to PDS on her laptop. Marilyn S. seconded. Motion carried. (Gary W. abstained).

2. Archdiocesan Finance Meeting

President John Z. advised that he will attend the Archdiocesan Finance Meeting (to be held via zoom on March 14, 2023).

3. Vasili Notice

Vasili P. advised the PC that he has been summoned by the Metropolitan of the Chicago Metropolis to return to the seminary to continue his studies leading to Ordination. Accordingly, he has requested that he be released from his contractual obligation shortly after August 15, 2023, several months in advance of the end of the original contract term.

4. Aris Spiritos visit

Fr. Stavros announced that Aris Spiritos will be visiting the community on the weekend of March 3-5. Many of the PC members previously met with him over zoom. He is being considered for a pastoral assistant/chanter position. PC members volunteered to host him for lunch and dinner during his visit.

5. Fr. Stavros Remuneration

The Parish Council confirmed that Fr. Stavros' compensation package (\$157,656) is comprised of three components: Salary, Housing Allowance and Reimbursable Expenses.

Jim A. made a motion to approve Fr. Stavros compensation package as follows:

Salary:	\$80,656
Housing Allowance:	\$59,000
Reimbursable Expenses:	\$18,000

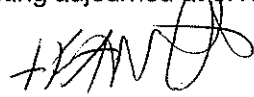
Alexis S. seconded. Motion carried. (unanimous).

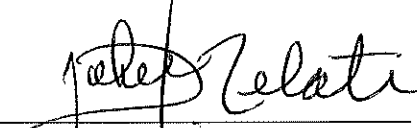
I. Date for next PC Meetings— March 20, 2023 (Mon) @ 6:30pm; April 24, 2023 (Mon) @ 6:30pm

J. Adjournment; Closing Prayer

Mike X. made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting. Nick K. seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Fr. Stavros offered a closing prayer.

Priest: 

President: 

Secretary: 