

**St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023**

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Rip Panos — Vice President
Jim Armstrong
Nick Katzaras
Marcelle Triantafilou
Mike Xenick
Vasili Panagopolous

John Zelatis — President
Marilyn Sandborn — Secretary
Amin Hanhan
Alexis Scarfogliero
Gary Ward

Absent: Suzanne Pileggi

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 6:35 pm. The Secretary, Marilyn Sandborn recorded the members present.

B. Billy Martin — Comegys Insurance Summary of Coverages

Billy Martin of Comegys Insurance Agency made a presentation about what can be expected as we approach the expiration of our current insurance at the end of March. We are in one of the toughest markets that he has seen and we can expect another increase in premium rates, perhaps in the 30% range. He reviewed our current coverages and answered questions about ways to reduce costs. One way to reduce costs would be to eliminate wind coverage, but he would not recommend that. He advised that bids have been sent out and he anticipates 7-8 insurance companies would be competing for the business. He will share the quotes as soon as he receives them, but generally they come in at the last minute. On a side note, he offered to help out with the canopy repair situation by making some phone calls to Progressive Insurance to see why it is taking so long to complete the repairs.

C. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Gary W. made a Motion to Approve the PC Minutes from 11/30/22. Amin H. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

D. Nomination and Election of Parish Council Officers for 2023

Fr. Stavros asked for nominations for each of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. See attached Parish Council Officer Nominations and Election.

The newly re-elected officers are: John Zelatis (President), Rip Panos (Vice President), Gary Ward (Treasurer), Marilyn Sandborn (Secretary).

E. Priest's Report — See attached

Fr. Stavros reported that the Orthodoxy 101 class has started and the first class had a record number of attendees. It was especially encouraging the most seemed to be in the 25-41 year old range, which is a good age group to target. In addition to the upcoming Men's and Women's retreats scheduled for February and March, he also announced that there would be a Mental Health presentation after church on February 19. At the end of February, he will conduct a seminar for Sunday school parents about how to get more Christianity in the home. Fr. John continues to be extremely helpful in meeting pastoral needs, especially those away from the church, as well as a Bible study, Veteran's Ministry and Young at Heart.

The discussion of Chapters 10 & 11 of Excellence Wins was postponed until the next meeting.

F. Officer Reports

1. President's Report — See Attached

President John Z. thanked Joanne Dalaklis outgoing PC member for her service and welcomed Alexis Scarfogliero to the PC. He also thanked Nick K. for a job well-done in overseeing the replacement of the solea carpeting

2. Treasurer's Report — See Attached

Treasurer Gary W. reported that the bank account balances remain at over \$1 million. He pointed out that the money currently held in Endowments could earn a higher rate of interest if moved to a money market account.

Jim A. made a motion to move up to 50% of the total Endowments into a money market account to earn a higher rate of interest. Nick K. seconded. Motion carried. (unanimous).

Gary W. also reported that the Festival results were still being finalized. Expenses were higher this year; less was donated; equipment that was previously available had to be purchased this year (e.g. grills, iPads). The final results should be available in the next few weeks.

He also announced that starting in January the school lease payments would be deposited into the Capital Improvements account at Regions Bank.

G. Committee Reports

1. Building and Grounds

A. Church Expansion

Rip P. is working on getting a formal proposal for the scope of work.

B. Hall Bathrooms Repairs/Renovations

This project is on hold while attention is devoted to the other immediate building/grounds projects.

C. Canopy

John Z. is working together with Rip in communicating with the insurance company. Bill Martin, our insurance agent from Comegys Insurance Agency offered to help communicate with Progressive Insurance to help move the process along.

D. Admin Building Canopy and Tarp

Rip P. will follow-up on the status of the installation of the courtyard tarp. Mike X. will communicate with the school as to need for awning over the office.

E. **Baptismal Font**

Rip P. will follow-up with Debbie B. to see what is needed to get the water heater for baptismal font repaired/replaced.

F. **Window and Interior Wall Repair**

Rip P. advised that upon inspection it appears that water may be seeping in around the windows and causing damage to the walls around the windows on the east side of the Church. Caulking around the windows will prevent additional damage. The soft spots on the walls around the windows can be scraped and repaired/repainted. The contractor who did the improvements to the Church ceiling is available to do this work.

Amin H. made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$3,000 to caulk around the windows and repair the soft spots on the east wall of the Church. Jim A. seconded. Motion carried. (unanimous).

2. **Stewardship Report** — See attached.

President John Z. presented the stewardship report on behalf of the stewardship committee. He noted that a substantial amount of money was received in December and the total collected was over \$50,000 more than collected in 2021 even though the total number of individuals/families giving was less than last year. The new year has started off well, with the expectation of a significant increase in pledges and collections in the next months as stewards continue to send in their pledges. The committee plans on sending a Thank You card to 2022 stewards and frequent mailings throughout the coming year.

H. **Old Business**

1. Festival — See Treasurer's Report

I. **Regular Business**

1. Solea Carpeting

President John Z. thanked Nick K. for coordinating and overseeing the installation of the new carpet on the solea.

J. **New Business**

1. Electronic Communications for Parish Assembly/Parish Council Elections

For future Parish Assembly and Parish Council Elections: would electronic notice satisfy the notice provisions of our current bylaws? Marilyn S. will present the question to Dante Skourellos for an interpretation of the bylaws.

2. AED training

Marcelle T. agreed to arrange for training on how to use the AED (automated external defibrillator) that is mounted on the wall in the Community Center. The training will be scheduled some time after Pascha.

3. Laptop for Administrative Assistant

President John Z. notified the PC that Kim Rojas, administrative assistant, is requesting a laptop computer for the office. It would be beneficial to have a computer available that is portable.

Alexis S. made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$1,200 for a new laptop computer for the office to be used by the administrative assistant. Marilyn S. seconded. Motion carried. (unanimous).

4. Office Needs List

President John Z. reported that the office staff is requesting a more current version of Microsoft Office Suite (5 licenses are needed). There was also a request to investigate alternatives to the current parish database system (PDS) software. These items and related costs will be explored and considered.


K. Date for next PC Meetings— February 21 (Tues), 2023 @ 6:30pm; March 20, 2023 (Mon) @ 6:30pm; April 25, 2023 (Tues) @ 6:30pm

L. Executive Session

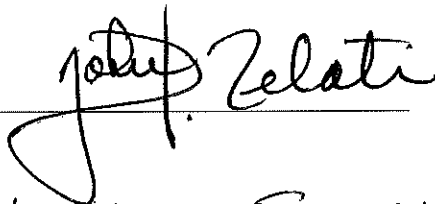
M. Adjournment; Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm. Fr. Stavros offered a closing prayer.

Priest:



President:



Secretary:

