

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – December 3, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Brooks led the meeting in prayer.

Roll Call (Linda Biando):

Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Linda Biando, Peter Ghicondey, Diane Lescas, Jani Mara
Absent: Linda Kosta, and Michele Anderson

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini

Sunday School Director: Steve Coraluzzi

Donna thanked everyone for coming.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the past meeting on November 12, 2013 were presented in the absence of Linda Kosta. A Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Linda Biando, seconded by Diane Lescas. All were in favor. Later in the meeting two corrections under "New Business" were made to the Minutes: Tish Klus is "Associate webmaster" and "Stephanie will contact Fr. Matthew" (not Pete).

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Michele Anderson, Donna reported that all current bills have been paid. The checking account balance is \$35,709.73 and the Investment Account balance is \$234,414.85. At the next Council meeting, we'll have two Treasurer's reports.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

- ⤴ Holy water bottles have been ordered.
- ⤴ **Archdiocesan Sexual Harassment Policy Statements:** Next month, these will be reviewed, signed by each Council Member and returned to the Archdiocese. Peter Ghicondey suggested that the Sunday School Teachers also sign. Steve Coraluzzi okayed it.

Vice Chairperson Report:

- ⤴ Peter reported that Tish Klus is out of town; thus he has not had a chance to do the website with her. Hopes to set up some time with her soon – perhaps after church.
- ⤴ Fantasy Football League: Everyone who has participated in this has had lots of fun. Starting playoffs: The top contenders are Adam Coraluzzi; Linda and John Biando, Zach Dardaris, Gregory and Eleni Costa. They will get their entry fee back; then it's done. The church will get approximately \$250.00. Although it's not a lot of money realized by our church, camaraderie and group effort of FUN were there. Peter feels good how it turned out. There was FULL Transparency. Everyone thanked Peter for the website and the Football Fantasy. Bravo!

Pastor Report: Fr. Brooks

- ⤴ Sound System: Has bids (last one is half of other person's bid). Next Thursday, he will receive a third bid. Donna has someone coming out for another bid.
- ⤴ Newsletter: Coming along. Asked Vlad's class to come up with a few suggestions naming the Newsletter.
- ⤴ Format: Fr. Brooks letter and news from Parish Council (Donna wrote her piece). It was suggested the January Newsletter also include a "Stewardship" article concerning 2014 Pledges.
- ⤴ Father suggests "snippets" in boxes in the front that could include events for the month or special services. He asked what Council members would like to have included in a newsletter:
 - ⤴ **Suggestions:** Namedays; Birthdays; Anniversaries; Coffee-hour sponsors; Sunday School activities for the month; Book Club announcements; Article on Nameday traditions (which could also be on our website); Parishioners announcements: birth, trips, etc.; why "Mesh"; translation of short pieces in Albanian; explanation of Icons, etc. **Mention "Look at our website."**
- ⤴ Susan Melnik will have a "kid's corner" in the Newsletter.
- ⤴ For the present, a bulk mailing will go out in January. Eventually, it could be e-mailed to those who have email; copies could be left at the candle stand
- ⤴ Lining up "Home Blessings" using 2012 List. He will do as many as he can in January and February (Saturdays and evenings) and then take the Bishop's suggestion from September 1 to our Church's Nameday in November. He will bless anyone's home who wants it whether they are parishioners or not.
- ⤴ He will take "information" forms to have filled out by those he visits.
- ⤴ Marcy Moore's Funeral on Thursday, December 5: Fr. Dennis Rhodes will concelebrate with him. Bill Bortner will be there also.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

- ⤴ Fr. Brooks and Steve will meet with the teachers soon (for the second part of the year)
- ⤴ Bill Bortner will have the Sunday School children paint the ceramics which he is donating, which will then be fired and returned for the children to hang on the Church's Christmas tree. They can then take them home to hang in their own trees.
- ⤴ The Aquarium trip: 72 people went. Everyone loved it.
- ⤴ Steve is planning future trips: Ice Skating; he will look for other trips; "We can do more things throughout the year: fall, spring, even August events."
- ⤴ Candy Sale: We will probably realize \$400.00 (more than hot dog sales). (Lily and Linda Biando are the big sellers). Candy purchasers will receive the candy on Sunday, December 15.
- ⤴ We're up to 41 children registered.
- ⤴ Praised Tracy and Michele having a board with children's names and placing stars for attendance beside their names.

Donna: Steve, we are making you Sunday School Director for life! All agreed.

Stewardship: Linda Biando. Pledges for the year were \$52,000; received \$49,500. We will meet as a committee to start the pledge drive and other stewardship projects for 2014, such as greeters.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

- ⤴ Donna reported that we are struggling for heat. The thermostat near the conference room controls the heat in the whole church.
- ⤴ Rain water coming down from the roof. Look into this in the spring.

Old Business:

- Next month: sign off on the sexual harassment policy.
- **Epiphany:** Have bottles filled. Leave holy water nearby.
- **Door Bell/Intercom/Camera:** Linda Biando will talk to Nick Mandia who may be too busy to deal with this. Fr. Brooks then said that he will talk to him. Reminder that Gus Cokos has volunteered his electrical abilities.
- Donna will email names and addresses of shut-ins, etc. for Christmas card mailings.

New Business:

- ⤴ **Soup-er Bowl Sunday – February 2, 2013. Parishioners will be asked to bring in pots of their favorite soups, cups of which will be sold for \$1.00 each. Covenant House will receive the money realized from the sale.**
- ⤴ **Icon Auction – January 5 and 12, 2014.** Peter Ghicondey will check with Phil Kosta as auctioneers.

Important Dates:

- ⤴ **Christmas Eve Liturgy: December 24, 6:30 p.m.**
- ⤴ **Icon Sale – January 5 and 12, 2014**
- ⤴ **Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 7, 2014**
- ⤴ **Epiphany – Sunday, January 5, 2014**
- ⤴ **Women’s Day Dance – March 8, 2014**
- ⤴ **Pascha – April 20, 2014**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Ghicondey, seconded by Diane Lescas. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Tomassini
Secretary pro tem