

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting - June 2, 2015
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Brooks Ledford led the meeting in prayer. Donna thanked everyone for attending.

Roll Call - Linda Biando: **Council Members Present:** Linda Biando, Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Lorimer, Michele Anderson. **Auxiliary Members Present:** Dorothy Tomassini, Linda Notska, Linda Kosta. **Clergy:** Father Brooks. **Absent:** Nilda Salavachi, Steve Coraluzzi, Elvira Gusho, Bill Bortner.

Secretary's Report: The June 2015 minutes were presented by Michele Lorimer. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Michele Anderson and seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. Michele reported it has been a slow month receiving pledges. With the first meeting of Stewardship coming up we are hopeful to work things out regarding pledges during the meeting. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Linda Biando and seconded by Peter Ghicondey. All were in favor.

Pastor Report: Father Brooks

- 1) Fr. Brooks gave an update on the Parish Ministry Team:
 - a) **Youth Group** had a "Book Club Luncheon" at Bliss Restaurant on May 31, 2015. It was a great time together with conversation about their lives, summer plans, and the book they each had read. Fr. thanked the Parish Council for funding the event.
 - b) **YAL Group** will get together June 5, 2015. The meeting begins with prayer followed by food and discussion in the office.
 - c) **Stewardship Committee** had their first meeting May 27th. They talked about ways to encourage more activity among our parishioners. The committee is made up of: Donna Dimitri, George Prifti, Stephanie Kosta, Spartak Braholari, Florina Bacuta, and Michele Anderson. Next meeting is scheduled for July 15th.
 - d) **Outreach Committee** is still being formed. Their goal is to reach out to people in two different areas: 1) reaching out to shut-ins, the sick or hospitalized, those who have had a death in the family, etc. 2) reaching out to visitors or people who rarely attend church. Their first meeting is scheduled for June 24th.
 - e) **Charity and Benevolence Committee** reaches out to people in three different areas:

- 1) parishioners who may need some help from time to time, 2) local communities, and 3) Orthodox institutions such as monastery, seminary, mission parish, or Orthodox group. First meeting is scheduled for July 1st.
- f) **Sunday School**-Fr. thanked Steve Coraluzzi for a job well done in directing both Sunday School and activities outside of church. Fr. Brooks and Steve will get together this summer to plan a teacher's workshop before school begins.
- g) **Music**-Fr. Brooks talked about forming a music program consisting of choir rehearsals, new music, and reaching out to potential choir members. This will take place this fall.
- 2) The Summer Newsletter is finished and Fr. is very happy with how beautiful and informative it is. He thanked Florina Bacuta who put it all together and formatted it. Donna Dimitri also sent a couple of things.
- 3) Visitations have continued throughout the last month. This included communion to Rosemary Notskas and Jorgia Salavachi. The sign-up sheet will be ongoing throughout the year.
- 4) Fr. Brooks will be leaving Philadelphia on June 8, 2015 as he heads back to Texas and will be returning on June 20th. On June 14th, Bishop Seraphim will serve the Divine Liturgy at St. John's.

Vice Chairman's Report: Peter Ghicondey

- 1) Peter reported that the website is doing very well.
- 2) In the month of April, for Pascha, there were 1,445 individual website visitors!

Chairman's Report: Donna Dimitri

- 1) Tele-conference with Archdiocesan members on May 14th. Sale of St. John the Baptist ground in Boston is accepted for \$5 million dollars (settlement may take place in 8 to 9 months).
- 2) Upcoming Archdiocesan Assembly will take place in Worcester, Mass. on Sept. 27th. 100th Anniversary in Worcester Sept. 24, 25, 26.
- 3) Any priest who wishes to attend the dinner/dance will be paid for.
- 4) An email was received from Donna Bacon, a parishioner of SS Peter and Paul. She and Fr. Dennis will be traveling to Shen Vlash, Albania from June 15th to July 1st. They will be visiting the Children's Home of Hope. A motion was made to give \$500.00 to each of them, seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Sunday School: Report sent in by Steve Coraluzzi

- 1) Hot dog sale raised \$145.00.
- 2) Sunday School Graduation on June 14, 2015. Pizza and ice cream will be served during

coffee hour.

- 3) Gifts for the Sunday School kids and teachers:
 - a) Movie tickets for the kids at \$8.50 each.
 - b) Gift not yet determined for teachers.
- 4) Michele Anderson made a motion to give \$500.00 to the Sunday School to cover the movie tickets and gifts for the teachers, seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Icon Committee: Linda Notskas and Bill Bortner

- 1) The "Resurrection Icon" may be put on the list of needed icons. Still working on it.

Charitable Contributions: The following were requested by Linda Biando

- 1) Project Home - Kensington area
- 2) Broad Street Ministry
- 3) Michele Anderson made a motion to send \$50.00 to each charity each month, seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Building Maintenance: Donna Dimitri

- 1) Stairwell work is done; needs to be painted. Cost is \$2,517.27.
- 2) Next project will be the window in the conference room. Fr. Brooks will paint the room.
- 3) Marble tiles will be installed in the altar area and the Solea. Stair will be squared off. Marble tiles, white color, 18x18. There will be a beige marble border.
- 4) Kitchen cabinets: Tommy Highland offered to organize the kitchen cabinets, together with Donna, Steve Coraluzzi, and Fr. Brooks.
- 5) June 29th will be the last day for Marguerita Haxhistasa to clean the hall after coffee hour. It was decided to have Fr. Brooks honor her with an icon that day. Miranda Lakuriqi will take over the job in two weeks.

Old Business: Review of Holy Week & Pascha

- 1) In general Holy Week and Pascha activities went well.
- 2) Holy Light to come out at midnight and Paschal Liturgy:
 - a) Fr. Brooks gave explanation of the Paschal Liturgy
 - b) Discussion followed
 - c) Council will revisit next February
- 3) Pre-sanctified and Holy Week evening services will be at 7 PM next year to determine if it helps more people to attend (given work schedules and traffic issues into Center

City).

4) Reminder for next year to announce request for decorum for Holy Thursday service.

New Business:

1) Church cleanup

a) it was decided to forego cleanup during the summer months as many church building projects are taking place

2) Golf outing will be September 13, 2015. More detail will follow.

3) Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 7 PM.

Michele Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 P.M., seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

*due to a family emergency Michele Lorimer excused herself early from the June Meeting as Linda Biando and Dorothy Tomassini willingly took over the remainder of notes for the evening

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Lorimer
Secretary