

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – April 8, 2014

(Approved May 6, 2014)

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Father Brooks Ledford asked the blessing on the meeting.

Roll Call: Fr. Brooks, Donna Dimitri; Pete Ghicondey; Linda Kosta, and Linda Biando. were present. Jani Mara, Diane Lescas, and Michele Anderson were absent.

Auxiliary members present: Dorothy Tomassini, Linda Notskas and Steve Coraluzzi – Sunday School Director

Secretary's Report: the February 2014 minutes were presented by Linda Kosta. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Linda Biando, seconded by Pete Ghicondey. All were in favor. The March 2014 minutes were presented by Dorothy Tomassini. The motion to accept was made by Linda Biando, seconded by Pete Ghicondey. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the absence of Michele Anderson, the March treasurer's report will be presented at the May meeting.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Brooks

- **Newsletter:** The April news letter is out. Father is working on his computer skills and hopefully, the next newsletter will be timelier. Michele Anderson will write the Council article and Linda Kosta will write an article about Name Days for the next one. Father is always looking for parish news.
- **Gus Cokos** has been working with Father on some of the smaller projects that are need at Church. So far, Gus has installed a dimmer switch for the sanctuary lights and is working on a security camera for the back door. A buzzer is planned for the front door. Gus has been donating the time and materials. Thank you!!!
- **Lifteria Dhimitri**, our oldest (106) and much loved parishioner, fell asleep in the Lord yesterday. Her funeral will be on Monday, April 14, 2014. The greeting of the family and the viewing will start at 9 AM and will be followed by the funeral service at 10 AM. Internment will be at Fernwood Cemetery, followed by a luncheon back at St. John's. Memory Eternal!
- **Baptisms:** Our parish has been recently blessed with several new babies. Ilirjan and Fiori Papa's daughter's baptism will be on June 21st; Noah Jordan will be Christened on May 10th; and Zoe , daughter of Brie Cokos will be Baptized on June 8th. Brie has lived out of state for many years. We will all be glad to see her and her little one. Many years to all!

- **Father's Vacation:** Shortly after Pascha, Father will be traveling back to Texas to be with his family. On Sunday, May 3, Fr. Deacon Greg Vrato will serve a special service which may be offered by a Father Deacon. The host will be pre-sanctified by Father Brooks at the Pascha liturgy. Fr. Brooks will be available by phone and Fr. Stephen will help in an emergency.
- **The Pascha donation letter** was mailed on Monday. This writer received it on Wednesday, two days after the mailing.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri. The Woman's Day Dance was a very successful night and fun for all. Next year we may ask Sergio Xhoxhi to DJ. A profit of \$3370 was generated for the Church. Special thanks go to Fiori Papa and Nelda Braholari for running this event and getting so many people to come.

Vice-Chair: Pete Ghicondey: The next project he and Tish are working on is the organization of all the things such as the weekly bulletins into folders as there are quite a few already. Current information is added on a continuous basis.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi

- Plans are being made for the end of the year celebration. The kids will be treated to Dave and Buster's after.
- A movie night is being planned for the Jr. and Sr. High students, but we would need a decent size TV. Since there will be many uses for a TV, Linda B. made a motion to purchase a flat screen TV. The motion was seconded by Linda K. All were in favor.
- Steve is still in search of a Sunday School teacher or two. Miss Carolyn would like to retire after many years of service.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- A second letter is written and will be mailed at the end of May.
- Stewardship Sunday is on June 1. Father will address the issue in his sermon.
- Pledges have increased from 52 to 79 over the last month. The amount is \$45,635. The goal is \$62,000.

Building Maintenance: Donna (position still open!)

- **Church Basement:** the pipes are finished. All are now PVC. Donna commented that she thought it was a very professional job.
- The hall lights toward the rear are flickering. The electrician will be in to check on this.
- Father Deacon Andrew will be in over the holiday to fix the downspout.
- Rugs: The choice of flooring for the altar and solea are still being discussed.
- Men's Room: George Kosova will be in to repair the urinal.

Old Business:

- **Sound System:** The purchase at \$3800 was made but there were problems with the Church debit card. It seems that the card was compromised. The card has been canceled and the charges will be reimbursed. The sound system will be paid by check.
- **Pascha Plan:** Palms and candles are ordered. The refreshments for after the Pascha liturgy will be wine, rolls, olives, and cheese. Holy Friday flowers were ordered by Paula Bendo. The ladies and hopefully others will be on hand on Holy Friday morning to decorate. The Resurrection Liturgy will be at 11 PM on Saturday evening.
- **AED: Automatic External Defibrillator** - Pete will get more info on this project that has been discussed in the past including pricing.

New Business:

- **Palm Sunday:** There will be a procession with the children carrying palms followed by a pancake breakfast in Memory of Charlie Adams. The breakfast and the preparations will be donated by the Adams family. The purple drape for the Iconostas will be put up after this service.
- **Parking for the Pascha Week** services: Father will call the Catholic Church to obtain permission.
- **Other services:** Holy Wednesday – Holy Unction: oil, bags and Q tips have been purchased. Holy Thursday – the 12 Gospels, the candles will go from lit to unlit. We will try to get a Deacon to help Father with all the reading.
- **Holy Friday:** Water will be sprinkled during the Laminations. There will be a procession around the block. Father will need a step stool for the Funeral Service on Friday afternoon. Linda Kosta will provide. Father would prefer adults to remove the flowers on Friday after the service. All hands will be needed for the clean up and decorating for the Resurrection Liturgy. During the Agape service, the Gospel will be read in as many languages as possible – at the least, English, Albanian and French.
- **Candle prices:** \$4.00 for the individual candles and \$2.00 for the smaller Memorial candles. All candles will be lit after Father presents the “Light of Christ.” Father will have several people come to the altar to receive the light and it will be passed to the people in the pews.
- **Passing the Basket:** Father feels it should not be passed at all, but there were several objections to this. Father feels that the parishioners should just give from the heart with a basket left at the front of the Church. The Council members felt that the Church always needs funds and the basket will be passed.
- **Church Parking Lot:** We seem to have a lot of people parking who are not paying. Occasionally there is no room for the paying parishioners. This topic will be revisited next month as the hour is late.

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, May 6, 2014th at 7PM. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda Biando, seconded by Peter G. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Linda M. Kosta, Secretary