

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – June 3, 2014

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 6:50 P.M as everyone was present at that time. Father Brooks Ledford asked the blessing on the meeting.

Roll Call: Fr. Brooks, Donna Dimitri; Pete Ghicondey; Linda Kosta, Jani Mara, Diane Lescas, Michele Anderson and Linda Biando were present. **Auxiliary members present:** Dorothy Tomassini, and Steve Coraluzzi – Sunday School Director. There were 2 guests: Nilda and Spartak Brahollari.

Secretary's Report: the May 2014 minutes were presented by Linda Kosta. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Michele Anderson and seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: The April 2014 Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. A motion to accept the April Treasurer's Report was made by Diane Lescas and seconded by Linda Kosta. Then the May 2014 TR was presented. The motion to accept was made by Linda Biando and seconded by Pete Ghicondey. All were in favor.

Michele commented that she is working on a better way to show transfers to the investment account, perhaps as reinvestment. Currently, it is shown as an expense. Also, she is working on a system to account for interest and losses in the investment account.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Brooks

- **Baptisms Coming Up:** Zoe Cokos, Anna Diamanti, and Emma Moy.
- **Home Blessings:** are continuing.
- **George Touros** is having brain surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Opening the Church:** Father is again opening the Church in the afternoons to anyone who wants to pray or just to visit. Michele A. suggested we put a donation box on the radiator in the foyer in case any visitors want to make a donation. Father is still working with Gus Cokos on a system that will alert him when some one comes in.
- **Feast Days:** will be celebrated on the closest Sunday. Sts. Peter and Paul's have a service on the actual day which anyone is welcome to attend. We do not have enough people available during a week day to warrant a Liturgy.
- **Sts. Peter and Paul's Name Day:** St. John's will not close, but anyone who would like to go to Sts. P & P that should do so. A straw vote for Father's consideration was taken as to opening or closing St. John's. Seven for keeping St. John's open and one against. Their celebration will be promoted at our Church.
- **Rev/Dr. Kevin Moroni** of the Lutheran Seminary has contacted Father to give a talk about Orthodoxy and to give a tour of the Church.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

*** Archdiocese Meeting Report:**

- Arch-Bishop NIKON will be going to Albania on September 13th for the consecration of the main Cathedral. It will be the first time the Ecumenical Patriarch has attended an event in Albania.

-Sexual Misconduct Policy: Any one working with children or money will have to be vetted. The booklet is 37 pages long.

- A/B NIKON recommended that each parish give their priest a “Cost of Living” percentage of 2.2%; however we will not be doing this in 2014. Father Brooks has declined it.

*** Nick Naum Estate:** The family would like a full written, finalized version of how the money for the scholarships will be distributed. A draft does exist, but it still needs work on the criteria. Donna has been in touch with Steve Muzekari, our investment contact.

*** Albanian Flag Day:** Our guest, Nilda with help from others would like to organize a “Flag Day” celebration at St. John’s on November 29th. Nilda and her friends have been most successful organizing past Women’s Day celebrations. Father Brooks was concerned that A/B NIKON would not approve because of the Nativity fast. However, he has approved the acceptance of the fast occasionally in the past.

***Rugs or Other Flooring:** Diane L will arrange for her guy to come to measure and get some prices and recommendations. She will coordinate the timing with Father.

Vice-Chair: Pete Ghicondey:

- Pete and Tish are a little behind in entering information, but hope to catch up shortly.
- Fantasy Football will begin again in August. The parishioners had a great time last year and the Church made a little money.

Sunday school: Steve Coraluzzi

- The final day of Sunday School for this school year is June 8th; however, attendance had really fallen since Mother’s Day.
- “Movie Night” for the young people will be aimed at grades 9 thru 12. Pizza and popcorn will be served and a discussion will follow.
- Steve met with Father to discuss future plans for the Sunday School. He needs at least one new teacher.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- Stewardship Sunday went well. Sign-up sheets were posted for the various committees that Father wants to start. He will try to highlight a committee each week. The unusual refreshments were well received, especially by the kids.
- Pledges are at 88. Pledged Dollars: \$49,660. Received Dollars: \$34,045.

Building Maintenance: Donna (position still open!) No report this month.

Old Business:

- **Memorial Day:** Father went to both Fernwood and Lawnview to meet the parishioners. It was a blessed day! Linda Kosta suggested that on the Sunday before Memorial Day we remember the members of St. John's specifically who have lost their lives in the service to our country.
- **AED: Automatic External Defibrillator** – It was reported that due to the CPR laws, the Church would not be liable if an AED was used to save a life even if administered by an untrained person. Our guest, Spartak, just happens to be well trained in this area and would be happy to hold a training session. He also reported that the batteries in AEDs are good for 10 years. He also emphasized that 911 should be called first. Nilda and Spartak will look into prices for us. Donna also reported that if there was any liability, our insurance would cover it.
- **Church Clean-up:** this Saturday at 10 AM. Come and help.
- **Kohl's Partnership:** Is now registered, but is only good for projects that involve children.

New Business:

- **Parking Lot:** Father feels we need a policy. After some discussion, he volunteered to write up one. Sometimes, there is not even a space for him.
- Jani asked about a screen for the fellowship hall. There is one behind the Icon of the Blessed Mother. Also, he asked about playing Church music during coffee hour.
- **Power Church Audit:** It is customary in any organization to have the books audited. Pete has a friend, a certified bookkeeper who would do it for \$200-300. Diane L. Made a motion to have, Robert Storey come to do the audit. It will go back 3-5 years. The motion was seconded by Linda K. All were in favor. Pete will make the arrangements.
- **Counting Money after Church:** Linda K. asked who has taken over for Tom and George. Steve G. and Chris Manosis are doing it.
- **Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, July 8th, 2014 at 7PM.** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele A., seconded by Diane L. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Linda M. Kosta, Secretary