

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – May 6, 2014

(Approved June 3, 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, Jani Mara, Diane Lescas, and Michele Anderson were present. Linda Biando joined us via Skype.

Auxiliary members present: Dorothy Tomassini, Linda Notskas, Bill Bortner and Steve Coraluzzi – Sunday School Director. Donna welcomed Bill as this is his first meeting.

Secretary's Report: the April 2014 minutes were presented by Linda Kosta. A motion to accept the minutes with a small correction was made by Pete Ghicondey and seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: The March 2014 Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. Michele commented that we took in more in this quarter than in the same quarter of 2013. We did receive an insurance check for the basement in the amount of \$8000. A motion to accept the TR was made by Pete Ghicondey and seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Brooks

- **Father's Family:** Father reported that his family will not be moving here until the end of the 2014-15 school year. His daughter has decided she would like to graduate with her class in Texas. In the meantime, Father will be looking for a more permanent living situation such as an apartment instead of a sublet.
- **Clear glass in the office window:** Father requested that frosted glass in the office be replaced with clear glass so he can let in some day light. It will be taken care of.
- **Home Blessings:** will begin again next week.
- Diane Lascas commented that the Deacons Typica Service went very well when Father was away last week.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

* **MUG PROJECT:** Bill Bortner, Susan and Vlad Melnik have an idea for the parishioners who want to get together to make ceramic mugs for use during coffee hour. A discussion followed. Some of the pros were that it would be good for the ecology to eliminate as many paper cups as possible and it would be a fun thing for the parishioners to do together. The biggest con was the problem with the washing up. We will soon be getting a dishwasher. (Donna is donating one.) Each

user would be responsible for putting their mug in the dishwasher or washing their own mug out by hand and replacing it on a rack that will be provided. The mugs and paint would be paid for by the parishioners, a few dollars each. Bill would fire them. A motion was made by Michele Anderson to proceed with the “Mug Making Parties” for the purpose of using them at Sunday Coffee Hour. The motion was seconded by Linda Biando. There were 3 pros, 2 cons and 2 abstentions. Donna was required to vote to break the tie as per our constitution.

***Rugs:** The funds for the replacement floor in the sanctuary have already been approved. However, there has been some discussion of a better type of flooring to be used. A committee which includes Diane Lescas, Michele Anderson, and Steve Coraluzzi was established to pursue this project. Other people may be added.

Vice-Chair: Pete Ghicondey:

- Pete and Tish continue to keep the website current.
- Pete has contacted his state representative in reference to the recent abduction of two Syrian Orthodox Bishops. Pete encouraged all the Council members to read the letter written by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America in reference to this situation.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi

- Plans are being made for the end of the year celebration. Steve discussed small gifts for the children. The Sunday School kids will be treated to Dave and Buster’s after Church.
- Father is working on the “Movie Night” for the young people as discussed in last month’s minutes.
- Steve thanked Pete for jumping in and helping the other kitchen guys with the hot dog sale last Sunday as Steve was unable to be there.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- The second stewardship (Pledge) letter has gone out. .
- Stewardship Sunday is on June 1. Father will address the issue in his sermon. The committee will supply the refreshments for coffee hour.
- Pledges are at 87, including nine new ones.

Building Maintenance: Donna (position still open!)

- Donna reported that most things are in pretty good shape
- Linda Notskas suggested that the extra Icons be placed on the ledges around the pillars in the sanctuary.

Old Business:

- **Pascha Review:** The Lenten and Pascha season went very well. There was some discussion of when the “Light of Christ” was brought out from the altar. Father Brooks said that the service began at 11 PM. The prayers take as long as they take and the Light can not be timed exactly.
- **AED:** Automatic External Defibrillator - Pete has had several estimates ranging from \$1000 to \$1700. There are still some questions on the Church’s liability. Donna will contact our insurance company to inquire.
- The new Sound System will be installed next month.
- **Homeless:** To keep a better accounting of the funds donated for the homeless in the baskets at the front of the Church, Linda Notskas will turn the money over to the treasury and a check will be sent monthly to Cranford to help with his feeding of the homeless on Logan Square on Thursdays. Also, there are some clothes that need to be picked up at the Watermark. Father will do this and Linda N. will distribute as usual. Thank you Linda for your continued devotion to the homeless.

New Business:

- **Kohl’s Partnership:** Employees from Kohl’s will come out and help with worthy community projects. Is this something we should take advantage of?
- **Saturday, June 7th (10-2) is “Clean Up Day.”** Some of the things we would like to accomplish are: Clean the back steps, clean the altar glass, pews washed down, trim the bushes outside and mulch, clean the top of the Iconostas, clean the chandeliers, etc.
- **Memorial Day:** Grave blessings will be on Monday, 26, at 10 AM at the higher section of Fernwood and about 10:30 at the lower section. Father will also be glad to go to any other cemetery by appointment.
- **Prayer Lists:** A postcard size sheet will be printed for the names to be blessed, both living and deceased. They will be available at the Candle Stand.
- **Front Door:** Linda Notskas suggested that the front door be repainted a different color than red. Since this is a huge job, it will be discussed further.
- **Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, June 3, 2014th at 7PM.** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Linda M. Kosta, Secretary