

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – May 8, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

(approved July 8, 2013)

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. We sang “Christ is Risen, Indeed He is Risen.”

Roll Call: Steve Ghicondes

Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Anderson, Linda Kosta, John Rubis and Steve Ghicondes.

Absent: Jani Mara

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Tim Pappas, and Tom Zoidis.
Also, **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

Secretary’s Report: The Minutes of the past meeting (April 8, 2013) were presented by Linda Kosta. There were a few minor corrections. A Motion to accept the minutes with the minor corrections was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by John Rubis. All were in favor. The minutes will be amended and sent to Donna to be posted on our website within a few days.

Treasurer’s Report: Michele Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. Some highlights:

- ⤴ 2013 Pledges to date: \$37,705 pledged, \$22,750 received
- ⤴ 2013 Icon Auction Totals: \$13,750; received: \$10,000.
- ⤴ Expenses were high because of the money transferred (\$25,000) from the regular checking to the investment account per motion from the last meeting.
- ⤴ The investment account is up to \$213,274.

Upon Motion made by Pete Ghicondey and seconded by Linda Kosta, the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously accepted as presented.

- ⤴ Other related (to the treasury) comments.
- ⤴ Donna shared a communication from Holy Assumption Russian Church for an ad. Linda K. reminded the council that we established a policy long ago that as a rule we only support the Albanian Orthodox Churches in this manner.
- ⤴ A donation of \$100 was sent to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese to thank them for the use of their parking lot during Pascha. Pete G. made a motion that we send an additional \$200. The motion was seconded by Michele Anderson. All were in favor.
- ⤴ There is some concern as to what is for sale across the street. John Rubis will investigate. Depending on what the Catholic Archdiocese does could strongly affect St. Johns and our parking situation.
- ⤴ Donna investigated money markets before the transfer was made. The rates very low, so the \$25,000 was transferred to the investment account.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri

*Donna reminded the council that there is an Archdiocesan teleconference meeting on Thursday May 16. She will send the connection info to anyone who wants to be involved.

- ▲ There will be a wedding at St, John's on June 29, 2013. They only want use of the Church. Fr. Stephen will officiate. Linda K made a motion to charge them \$500 payable in advance. The motion was seconded by Michele A. All were in favor. Steve G. suggested we add this info to the handbook.
- ▲ Fr/Dn, Andrew was paid \$500 for all his help during Pascha.
- ▲ A friend of Donna's donated a laptop. This computer will be open to all with appropriate electronic controls.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

- ▲ John has called Jim Stritch to check out the A/C.
- ▲ Steve G. reported that the remains of the parking gate have been taken down.
- ▲ Drain pipe coming from the kitchen running to the basement is leaking. It is a big job. George Kosova had been contacted. The cost will be about \$1000. George will be here soon.
- ▲ Nick Mandia has been contacted to come in to address some electrical issues.
- ▲ The door on the Iconostas needs some attention. John Rubis will take care of this.
- ▲

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

- ▲ Lazarus Saturday went very well. 21 kids and many parents. Many people donated to keep the cost down. There were lots of crafts, pizza lunch and meshe making. And, of course, the Liturgy explained by Father Brooks. Several of Miss Linda's (Biando) class made their first confession.
- ▲ June 9 – Last day for Sunday School. We have 3 graduates: Zach Dardaris, Tori Contoudis, and Andrew Fiss. They will be presented with Orthodox Study Bibles. Instead of certificates which the children don't seem to care about, Sandy Fiss came up with bracelets for the girls and leather rope necklaces with a cross for the boys as promotion gifts. Zack will also receive a gift of a St. George's medal for his many years of service as an altar boy. Steve G. will pick this up.
- ▲ There was a discussion about the “Michael Goldsmith” award that was given to the most devoted Sunday School student. (The award was established years ago in memory of a young parishioner who passed away.) No one currently knows where the plaque is. It will be searched for.
- ▲ The Sunday School will treat the parishioners to a hot dog lunch that day. The cost will be covered by funds already raised by them.

Stewardship: Linda Biando. Follow-up letters have been written and will go out within a week.

Old Business:

***Substitute Priests** : Steve G.. Reported that Fr. Mark will serve May 26, June 16 & 23. Father Joe will again help us on the other open dates. Father Mark will also bless the graves at Fernwood on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013. Steve G. will talk to Phil Kosta about meeting him at the entrance of the cemetery.

* **Church sign:** Steve G. met with the representative from Spikes. He will get back to Steve with some ideas. Pete suggested we use the icon of St. John Chrysostom on our sign.

***Website:** Pete reported that we had a average of 9.7 visitors per day over the winter; however, in the spring we had 13.5 per day. A u-tube video of the Church in Albania went up this week. A Facebook page has been started by Michele. Please go on and “like.”

***Pascha and Holy Week Review:** All went very well. 155 people on Saturday night. Palm Sunday was very crowded. Linda N. reminded us that we should use the darker candles during Holy Week and the white ones for Easter.

* **Journey to find a full time priest:**

- Father Brooks Ledford made a good impression on most of the parishioners. He is very interested in pursuing a full time position at St. John's.
- The older parishioners had a mixed reaction. The kids loved him.
- Some parishioners are ready for him. There were a few negative points. Everyone agreed that he must be able to attract and hold the new Americans and recruit new members.
- Donna made some reference calls to the parishes where Fr. Brooks served. The Sunday school director at St. Sofia's was very positive about their experience. She called St. Anthony the Great and the military. Neither responded. With the military, their people change regularly and it may be that the ones in service now did not know him.
- Michele Anderson made a motion to pursue Father Brooks for the full time position. The motion was seconded by Steve G. The vote was 4 pro, 1 abstain. As chair Donna did not vote and Jani was absent.
- Linda K. suggested that a committee be formed to put together a financial offer and a job description. The Committee will be: Michele, Pete, Tom Z., Donna, and Linda B.
- Donna will contact + Bishop Nikon to let him know our plan.

New Business:

▲ ***Mothers' Day Flowers:** Ann Gjoka and friends have once again volunteered for this duty.

▲ ***The Golf Outing** is September 15th.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, June 3, 2013 – 7 P.M.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Rubis, seconded by Steve Ghicondes. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta, Secretary