



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Detroit Parish Council held its March, 2024 meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. President William G. Lianos called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present.

The meeting commenced with all present reciting the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting were read and after several minor corrections were accepted as presented.

President Lianos then gave the floor to Mario Mihas, one of our parishioners with a background in computer technology, who had been asked to look into the Cathedral's antiquated telephone system. The main issue with the current phone system is the difficulty of callers to the Cathedral leaving voice mail messages and the ability of Cathedral personnel to retrieve and respond to those messages. Mario reviewed some alternative telephone hardware systems and secured a quote for new equipment. The next step in the process is to review that equipment quote in conjunction with our telephone service carrier, Comcast, to see if the overall cost with new equipment does not exceed our current telephone costs.

A motion was made and seconded to pursue this quote and potentially replace our current telephone hardware system as long as it cost neutral with the services needed for this new system and those being currently provided by Comcast with our current telephone hardware system. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's report for February, 29, 2024 was then reviewed. Several line items of the balance sheet and year-to-date profit and loss system were discussed. The year-to-date February 29, 2024 profit and loss statement reflects a small profit after all operating expenses of approximately \$4,500.00.

President Will Lianos addressed several items:

- The Philoptochos is sponsoring their annual "Macaronatha" on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Everyone is urged to attend along with their family and friends. It was also decided to have the Cathedral office send an email blast to all parishioners reminding them of the event with flyer attached.
- The Philoptochos is also hosting a bake sale the evening of March 24 and during the Feast Day Luncheon on the 25th. Donations of baked goods would be gladly accepted.
- General donations to the Cathedral to defray the costs of the Feast Day Luncheon will be gladly accepted.

- The first Saturday of the Souls will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, the second and third Saturday of the Souls following on March 16th and March 23rd, 2024 respectively.

Father George spoke briefly of a retreat he attended in Ohio recently with other clergy members. The theme of the retreat as to how clergy members are adapting to change in the new realities they are facing in today's world. Methods of understanding, handling and reacting to some of the new realities were discussed. He pointed out that adapting to some of these new realities does not mean accepting them. He also confirmed, what many of us are aware of, that parents of children must be proactive in getting their children to Church each Sunday, despite all the other options young children seem to have on Sunday mornings.

Committee Reports:

- Feast Day Luncheon, March 25th- Chairman George Theodorou stressed advertising the event as much as possible. He also indicated that even if tickets were not actually sold in advance to assist in securing an accurate head count, he was going to take "reservations " from those indicating they would be attending to help in securing the most accurate guest count as possible.
- Membership Committee-Pano Papalekas commented that with these various Cathedral events over the next few weeks, consideration should be given to repositioning the flyers or announcements of these events in a more prominent place in our weekly electronic bulletin. Highlighting them in the beginning or in a more visual area of that communication may make more readers aware of the events.
- Building Committee-Jim Boloven reported that the I-375 construction project appears to be on hold, at least temporarily. He spoke with one of the project representatives he had previously met who indicated that the project is slowing a bit, preparing a traffic flow analysis and revisiting the number of lanes for the planned boulevard. The earliest the project commencing appears to be the first calendar quarter of 2026. The traffic flow is our main concern inasmuch as it is the lifeline of our leased parking lot.

Jim also reported on securing quotes of relocating the electric panel, currently in the altar, that operates all the Church light fixtures, chandeliers, altar lights, etc. The current quotes are in excess of \$30,000. The Building Committee will continue to work to secure additional bids or seek an alternative to relocating the panel. The current location of the panel does not allow one to identify which lights are being turned off and on without stepping outside of the altar.

The search continues for a contractor to install the domes for the four corner towers. There seems to be no qualified contractors willing to install them. Jim is researching another alternative for their installation, securing various skilled tradesmen who have the expertise and would work together to install the domes.

Building Committee member Bill Lianos reported that the annual roof inspection will be performed by Schena Roofing and any leaks being noted will be addressed

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Will Lianos reported that the Cathedral has filed for the “ERC”, Employee Retention Credit, with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This credit is available to us because the Cathedral continued payroll of all employees during the pandemic. Receipt of this credit, anticipated to be in excess of \$37,000 make take 12 – 18 months inasmuch as the IRS has been inundated with false claims for this credit and they are reviewing each claim slowly and carefully.
- Security for various evening services during Holy Week was discussed. No definitive decisions were made. Definitive plans to be made during our April, 2024 Council meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, April 2, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Father George concluded with a closing prayer.

Please feel free to contact Father George or any Parish council member for any additional information, questions or concerns you may have.