

St. George Greek Orthodox Church – Piscataway NJ
General Assembly Meeting – March 20, 2022

Draft

1. Opening Prayer – Father Nektarios Cottros (12:55pm)
2. Roll Call
 - Father Cottros
 - George Athanasopoulos – President
 - Michael Sirimis – Treasurer
 - Constantine Apostolakis – VP Operations
 - Vassilis Keramidas – VP Administration (**absent**)
 - Stefanie Sgourakis – Secretary
 - George Psyllos
 - George Demos
 - Dean Solomos – (**absent**)
 - Peter Combates – (**absent**)
 - Maria Christodoulatos – (**absent**)
 - John Lyssikatos
 - Dimitrios Arhontoulis
 - Basil Fottis
 - George Zalokostas
 - Eleni Parlapanides
3. Minutes of October 24, 2021
 - James Karamanos – under Priest’s report – please use full title for Bartholomew “His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew”
 - MOTION – Lampros Bourodemos to accept minutes with correction. 2nd George Psyllos.
 - Unanimous – PASSED
4. Priest’s Report – Father Nektarios Cottros
 - a. Sacraments – since January we have had 2 Weddings, 4 Baptisms, 1 Chrismation and 6 Funerals. More sacraments are being scheduled as we return to normal/recover from the pandemic.
 - b. Sunday school, Greek School and GOYA are back in session
 - c. Our community and organizations are great. Congratulations and thank you to all.
5. President’s Report – George Athanasopoulos
 - a. Thank you to Board members for working together to better the community.
 - b. Overall there are no problems

- c. Schools are back to normal session with no masks required
 - d. Improvements –
 - i. Completion of the Ditch
 - ii. 57 Riverview Road
 - iii. Gym/community center
6. Treasurer’s Report – Michael Sirimis
- a. 2021 Budget vs 2021 Actual and Proposed 2022 Budget
 - i. 2021 Budget vs Actual as of December 31, 2021
 - 1. Receipts: \$575,350 (budget); \$779,492 (actual)
 - 2. Disbursements: \$785,990 (budget); \$835,607 (actual)
 - ii. 2022 Proposed Budget
 - 1. Receipts: \$928,450
 - 2. Disbursements: \$898,289
 - iii. Greek School - \$50 (per category) for tuition is included in the 2022 proposed budget numbers.
 - b. Looking to generate funds for improvements.
 - c. Donation to Church – In his Will, Mr. Nicholas J. Gonedes, a professor at the Wharton School, left approximately \$500k to the Church. Paperwork is in process to collect the funds.
 - i. Note: George Psyllos - be advised this is “new money” and is not budgeted nor does it mean it will be automatically used for capital improvements. Where /how funds are to be used needs to be discussed.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

*James Karamanos – is the Community in the financial position to pay off notes? Mike Sirimis – all notes are paid. Only outstanding debt is the SBA loan.

*Lampros Bourodemios – will the improvements for the Gym be discussed? Is there a presentation for the Gym? Mike Sirimis – Yes, it will be discussed. Also, the \$100k budgeted is a place holder only at this time.

*Elpi Arhontoulis – regarding the \$200k proposed for capital improvements – do we have the money? Mike Sirimis – will look to fundraising and donations for any projects.

MOTION – Basil Fottis – to accept Budget 2022 as proposed. 2nd Eleni Parlapanides.
Unanimous – PASSED

7. Stewardship – John Lyssikatos

- a. Number of pledges – 452; Amount of pledges - \$227,345; Average pledge - \$502
- b. Need to step up our efforts to increase Stewardship and pledges.
- c. Action Plan:

- Engage community through active outreach, social media and possible survey
- Target personalized mailings and networking meetings – meet and greet events
- Reach out to newlyweds and new parents that did not continue being stewards after their respective sacrament
- Reach out to the over 1,000 people on our mailing list that are not active members/stewards
- Continue communications through St. George Voice, Weekly bulletins, social media, etc.
- Raise community awareness of the overall financial situation of our church

8. Greek School – Maggie Stavrianidis

- a. 116 students, 5 days/week, 5 teachers
- b. 2 remote/on-line classes
- c. 84 families participate in the program

- Database created with Student/Parent information
 - Emergency communication
 - Student learning styles
- Ellinopoula Program
 - Training provided to Greek School teachers on utilization of the program
 - Evaluate how to use in classroom with new technology available
- Preparatory Ellinomatheia Certification Class to be offered in 2022/23 school year
 - Open to all Greek School graduates to prepare for certification
 - Class to be funded by attendeesrd
- Planning an open house event for April 3
Invite all parents to discuss progress of school, get input/seek feedback

9. Philoptochos – Despina Fottis

- a. Making some changes
 - i. such as establishing their own EIN separate from the Church
 - ii. opening two new accounts: 1 for Needy Cases, 1 for General Fund
 - iii. Created a new email account: stbarbaraphilop@gmail.com
 - iv. Families seeking assistance – have started a process, new forms – all of which are now located on the Church website.
- b. Membership – approximately 65 paid; struggling to get new members.
- c. Fundraisers for April – Koulourakia; Easter Tsourekia
- d. Lenten Luncheon – Thank you to all who attended.

10. 57 Riverview Road (1.6 acres) – Constantine Apostolakis

- a. Proposed work: tree clearing, dumpster to clean area, grade soil, grass seed, subdivision to 4 lots

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

*Maggie Stavrianidis – what is the short term plan for the property? Constantine Apostolakis – to make the property presentable (clean it up).

11. Rutgers Parking – Constantine Apostolakis

- a. We have approximately 24 volunteers for each game (6-7 games per year). George Prenderville is a constant – Thank you.
- b. Lots
 - i. Open 5 hours prior to kickoff
 - ii. Tailgating confined to small area by vehicle
 - iii. Lighting at all lots
 - iv. Portable toilets at all lots
 - v. Tax deductible donation to Church
- c. Square & Brushfire Apps – John Lyssikatos
 - i. Brushfire supports Churches
 - ii. Update website to help with sales administration
 - iii. Promote and presale of season tickets.
 - iv. Maximize credit card sales
 - v. Marketing list to leverage

12. GOYA – Sandy Kalogridis

- JANUARY Sights & Sounds Sign up/Practices Volleyball & Basketball Championships (District 1 & 2) January Ending Balance: \$8,732.72
- FEBRUARY Sights & Sounds Practices Valentine's Dance S&S Luncheon/Performance Lamb Raffle Sale Sent out – Olympics Fundraiser February Ending Balance: \$11,141.96
- MARCH Sights & Sounds Oratorical Festival Presentations Lenten Lock-in Jr. Olympics Soccer practices Jr. Olympics Co-Ed Volleyball practices
- APRIL Goya Hosts Coffee Hour Palm Cross Making - Olympics Fundraiser Lamb Raffle Winners picked (Palm Sunday) Jr. Olympics track and field practices start
- MAY Nominations & Elections for new Board Jr. Olympics Soccer Tournament Indoor Olympics at Perth Amboy Festival: GOYA booth & help where needed Jr. Olympics – Memorial Day Weekend
- JUNE NYC Greek Parade Final meeting & Awards/Scholarships Luncheon

End of Year trip to be planned.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

*Father Cottros – very proud of GOYA. Sandy and advisors deserve a round of applause. The retreat this past Friday was magnificent.

*Maria Psyllos – Congratulations. You do a lot for the Community. Sandy Kalogridis – we have a group of people who respect each other and work well together. It is a group effort and group success.

*Andreas Savas - Do you see a need in this facility – specifically for GOYA – that we need to address (i.e., room for spectators)?

13. Dinner Dance – George Zalokostas

- a. Actively seeking a location. Many places are already booked for Fall 2022.
- b. May possibly need to use the Gym

14. Festival – George Athanasopoulos

- a. We will have a full (in person) Festival
- b. Preparations are underway
- c. Need assistance with donations (food, supplies) as it has become increasingly difficult and/or expensive to obtain.

15. Unfinished Business

- a. Ditch /Piping – Constantine Apostolakis
 - i. Dynamic Engineering (brought in by Nick Kambitsis) an environmental engineer, has assisted in getting DEP to allow us to fill the ditch
 - ii. Diverting piping around the area/bridge to allow for building expansion in the future. Note: there was clarification regarding “diverting piping” using drawings to show where proposed route would be.

General discussion ensued.

COMMENTS /QUESTIONS

*James Karamanos – need a motion to proceed on feasibility of filling the ditch

*George Psyllos – need approval from General Assembly for right of way. Township authorized filling the ditch

MOTION – Lampros Bourodemos – for the General Assembly to approve Easement of 233 feet of existing pipe in exchange for Township to approve Churches plan to pipe & fill the ditch. 2nd George Psyllos. Unanimous – PASSED

DISCUSSION – Ditch easement

– Frank Araps (Legal Counsel)

*Recommend to confer with Engineers – regarding draft/conceptual plans

*Concept with easements – modifies our 2004 site plan which is subject to maintenance agreement

*Easement agreement states Church will maintain the piping and that they (Township) take no legal responsibility.

*Drainage responsibilities – new man hole, catch basin as well as piping.

*Will need to speak with Committee members and James Clarkin (Township Attorney) to clarify responsibilities and subsequent unintended consequences. Anything he presents to Clarkin will be cleared by committee first.

*Submitted copies of documents to Board Secretary: Storm water Maintenance Agreement (2004); Drainage Impact Assessment (2020)

- John Lyssikatos –

*When we reach out to James Clarkin, let’s make it collective effort, not just attorney to attorney

*Committee / Board to review documents and revise wording to move forward

b. Greek School Tuition – general discussion. Church pays over \$50k toward expense.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

*Andreas Savas – should be an entitlement (free) and parents not charged.

*Lampros Bourodemos – Greek school established in 1918 without cost. Started charging tuition in 1983. Should not raise at this time.

*Mrs. Bizos (Sunday school teacher) – as a parent I pay for my children to learn and I make sure they attend class. Sunday school is free as it should be. Parents should pay for Greek School.

MOTION – George Psyllos – to increase Greek School tuition \$50 on all three levels effective September 2022. 2nd Mike Sirimis. Yes – 17; No – 3; PASSED

16. Close Meeting – 3pm

MOTION – George Zalokostas to close the meeting. 2nd – Eleni Parlapanidis. Unanimous - PASSED