

**St. George Orthodox Church**  
**Minutes of the July 9, 2023 Parish Council Meeting**

Attendance: Alex Ibrahim, Emma Ibrahim, Kerry San Chirico, Gary Sarkessian, Joseph Solomon (elder), Joseph Solomon (younger), Cynthia Long

Attachments

*June 2023 Minutes*

*Treasurer Report June 2023*

*New Business: Proposed Revision of Fellowship Hall Rental Policy*

I. Call to order and prayer

II. Approval of Minutes

o Cynthia requested clarification about New Business (VIII-a) Coffee Hour Clean-up; June 2023 minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Kerry S.C.; seconded by Alex. I; the motion was approved.

III. Pastor's Report (Fr. Joel) – None. Fr. Joel absent.

IV. Chairman's Report (Alex Ibrahim)

o Thank you to the LTP committee for the amazing bathroom progress. Youssef has done a wonderful job.  
o Thoughts on discussion regarding rectory  
o Split A/C and heater

V. Treasurer's Report (Tony Nasr)

o Treasurer's Report for June 2023 attached.  
o Emergency Fund Balance (\$31,240) invested in 6 mo CD with TD Bank @4.25%

- Maturity Date: 12-20-23
- Estimated Interest: \$663.85

o Total Food For Hungry collections YTD \$373

o \$500 donated to Wahat Al Farah school for the handicapped in Bkeftine, Lebanon

- \$250 Charity Fund
- \$250 Matched Donations
- \$50 Wire Transfer Fee donated
- Will be reflected in July Treasurer Report

VI. Committee Reports

a. Adult Education (Kerry San Chirico) – No report.

b. Choir (Karen Burke) – No report.

c. Icon Committee (Caroline Becker)

o Iconographer Nick Papas is coming to St George via car from western PA July 11-15 in order to trim our large icons, update the troparia on them and help us install the new icons (Sts David and Patrick together and Sts. Moses & Mary of Egypt together).

o Nick is booking his own hotel, flying out of Philly on 7/15 & really just needs access to the building on 7/12, 13, 14. We will pay for the hotel, his return flight and work time during his visit.

o Here is a list of the tools he's requested; Joe Solomon will loan his tools:

- Portable Table Saw or Hand Circular Saw
- Power Hand Sander
- Saw Horses
- Extension Cord (already on-site at Church)

d. Long-Term Planning (Joseph Solomon)

o Bathroom project: Should be completed by PC meeting (just waiting on stall doors for men's room). Yousef did great work and should beat the preliminary completion date by just over a week. Thanks to all who helped get this done!

- The total project costs were \$35K, meeting the not to exceed cost approved by PC. Costs ran a little high because of the cost of the partition dividers in the stalls. Joe Jr will provide more details at the PC meeting
- May be 1 more step re: urinal in men's room

o Handicap access: has been discussed at length at past 2 LTP meetings. LTP is attempting to arrive at 3 estimates of cost before making recommendations. PC may need to consider other capital costs before handicapped access.

o Other projects: coming up, but keeping our priorities straight

e. Maintenance Committee (Gary Sarkessian)

Item	Status	Priority		
7	Complete	3	Ceiling above back steps is falling down. Needs to be addresses (removed?)	removed and replaced. <b>How about the ceiling at the top of the stairs?</b>
12	LTP?	1	Concrete steps outside of Annex still need to be repaired	Joe S. Sr. will ask Yousef for a price to repair the step and/or ask Yousef to ask his concrete contractor for a quote.

14	Complete	2	"Stage" will be addressed (ceiling removed), file cabinets removed when new bathroom is installed.	Will keep one file cabinet for future use. Coalition of the willing will come to church when the dumpster is available and take down ceiling. <b>One cabinet was removed, one is still on the stage.</b>
15	Complete		Parking Bollard needs to be reinstalled. Shredded Rod.	
6		1	Sunday School is requesting one additional classroom by September 2023	<b>Need to get top floor of annex cleaned (Danny). Needs to be painted</b>
8		3	White ceiling fans in hall will be spray painted	Gary and Tony
9	Complete		Metal doors will be repainted	<b>Need keys</b>
4	On hold.	2	We need to get someone to help us with balancing the HVAC system for proper air flow, supply and return (Gary will ask Farris if he has that expertise)	Altar air returns (all four passive openings) will be installed one day (soon?)

f. Ministry Team (vacant) – No report.

g. St. Katherine Women (Cynthia Long)

o Rula Khoury, President of the Antiochian Women of the East (AWE) visited with us on June 25 and told the women more about the organization and programs of the Antiochian Women and AWE.

o We have sold ~15 tickets to the December Theatre Trip to see Sight & Sound's "Miracle of Christmas." Possibly 2 - 4 tickets may be available. Payment is due July 30.

h. Stewardship Committee (Jerome Burke)

o Discussion at last month's Long Range Planning Committee agreed that we price the cost of projects (i.e. handicap elevator or lift, classroom renovation) before launching a capital improvement campaign for the parish.

o Need to recruit 2 members ( so far Alex and I - I asked Holly Daniels to consider. Prefer non PC members of the Parish. Will ask for Father Joel's input and blessings.

i. Sunday School (vacant) (Cynthia Long reporting)

o The Office Administrator has updated the online google SS Registration Form. Link and information will be forthcoming in the August newsletter and September

bulletins. This year we plan on four classes: Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 5; Grades 6 – 8; Grades 9 – 12.

o We are still looking for Assistant Teachers for Gr. 3 - 5 and Gr. 6 -8 [?] as well as substitute teachers. The autumn SS Starting Schedule is as follows: September 10: Teacher Introductions to Parish and Student Registration; Sept. 17: All classes meet together & parents also invited to class; Sept. 24: picnic; October 1: First Day of individual classrooms.

j. Teen SOYO (Alex Ibrahim)

o Currently planning an August project to make back to school backpacks for needy children

## VII. Old Business

o The Lebanese charity that helps disabled children is called Wahat Al-Farah, and a donation was made through wire transfer. Thank you, Tony and donors.

## VIII. New Business

- a. The Office Administrator reports that the Tax Exempt Certificate will need to be renewed before February 2024; the office Admin. will send a copy of the current Certificate to Gary S. and Alex I. We will also ask Ed Donahue's brother for help as needed.
- b. Cynthia L. suggested that Parish Council sponsor Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 6 for Transfiguration, but the suggestion was declined due to lack of availability.
- c. Cynthia L. (Office Admin) presented revisions to the Hall Rental Policy which were made in consultation with Alex I. and Fr. Joel. Kerry S.C. made a motion to accept the revised policy; Gary S. seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
- d. Cynthia L. (Office Admin) indicated that she will soon start working on updating the Parish Directory, including both the email distribution list & Directory.
- e. Fr. Joel Housing Stipend. Alex. I. and Michael S. suggested planning to allocate a Housing Stipend to Fr. Joel and family, effective January 2024. Suggested amount was either "up to \$2500 per month" or "\$2500 per month." No vote was taken. Vote will be taken at August meeting.

## IX. General Business Remarks

- a. Administrative Assistant (Cynthia Long)
  - o August Planning Mtg – On behalf of the Pastor and Office Administrator, Ministry heads, please bring templates and tentative event dates to the Liturgical Calendar Meeting on August 19 to avoid potential schedule conflicts.

- o Brainstorming Coffee Hour (prep for 2023-24 year). Brief discussion; will discuss again in August.
- o Greeters & Readers: Joe the younger volunteered Michael and Alice Solomon as Greeters for August 13 and Peter Solomon as the Reader.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at ~1:30 p.m.

Approved by Parish Council on August 13, 2023.