

**St. George Orthodox Church**  
**Minutes from the June 11, 2023 Parish Council Meeting**

*Attachments:*

*May 2023 minutes*

*Treasurer Report May 2023*

*Maintenance Committee Report June 2023*

*Committee/Meetings Form*

Members Present - Fr. Joel Gillam, Kerry SanChiricio, Gary Sarkesian, Alex Ibrahim, Joe Solomon( Sr )  
Cynthia Long, Michael Solomon, Jerome Burke, Emma Ibrahim, Tony Nasr, and Marcia Ibrahim

**I. Call to order and prayer**

**II. Approval of Minutes-** motion Kerry SC and seconded Michael Solomon

**III. Pastor's Report** (Fr. Joel Gillam)

◦ Reminder: Father will be away on Vacation from July 2 (after Liturgy) thru July 14, and he will be out of town serving at the Antiochian Village from July 16-28. Fr. Dennis will be serving all three Sundays (7/9; 7/16 & 7/23) while he is away.

◦ Donations were made to the Parish Life Conference and Archdiocese Convention (in lieu of the ad books) totaling \$1050.00.

◦ Phone landline accidentally disconnected in the course of construction of the new women's restroom - ( previous conference room ) Seeing if line can be reconnected and if not will need to have Verizon install and perhaps obtain a new digital box

◦ Father that members of PC and other committees exercise good judgment when it comes to correspondence regarding proposed church improvement projects - Father does not have a " wish list " when it comes to these items and maintains his foremost role as theological and spiritual leader of the parish while material needs of the church are addressed by PC and committees of which Father is a participant

#### **IV. Chairman's Report (Alex Ibrahim)**

Thank you to everyone for all of your progress on the current work streams. A lot of exciting things are happening at St. George!

#### **V. Treasurer's Report (Tony Nasr)**

See attached Treasurer Report May 2023.

Additional comments:

- Bathroom Renovation Started - \$15,000 paid from Capital Building Fund
- HVAC Payments Complete - \$22,650 paid from Capital Building Fund
- End of Year 2022 Archdiocese Assessment Balance confirmed, \$0
- Spring Retreat costs - \$850
- \$ 49764 balance as of May 31 in Building Fund - not reflective of downpayment on restroom construction

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Adult Education (Kerry San Chirico)**

No report

##### **b. Choir (Karen Burke)**

No new updates.

##### **c. Icon Committee (Caroline Becker)**

Committee is waiting for iconographer Nick Pappas to respond about coming up to trim and install icons.

##### **d. Long-Term Planning (Joseph Solomon)**

- Bathroom project started, estimated completion date is July 15. I am planning to be at the church on June 25 to dispose of the ceiling tiles above the stage and can also help move the file cabinet upstairs to the office.

- We began discussions of handicap accessibility at our last meeting. I have been slow to get progress on that (my fault, been a busy month for me). Emma and Alex have started looking into grants and elevator options. I think we will explore 3 cost options: a full elevator from basement to sanctuary, a partial elevator from parking lot to narthex and then a ramp from parking lot to narthex. We will price them out and then proceed from there. We have a pretty good lead on the partial outdoor elevator from the parking lot to the top of the stairs to enter the narthex as a starting point

- Discussions regarding the future of parking and the annex will take place at some point in the future - all of these costs will feed into stewardship, which I just talked to Jerry about.

e. **Maintenance Committee** (Gary Sarkessian)

See attached report.

Additional notes -Thanks to Cynthia for providing AC Unit for new conference room - will plan to engage Joseph our contractor to install dual unit that is already has a line to outside and can provide heat and AC in this room

Parking lot Bollards to be replaced in the Handicapped Parking spaces

Discussion with respect to “ Flickering Light “ problem also on need amp supply to the church  
- Gary will contact Jonathan Black electrician ( St. Philips and friend of the parish ) for advice

f. **Ministry Team** (vacant)

No report.

g. **St. Katherine Women** (Cynthia Long)

◦ AWE President Rula Khoury visiting next Sunday, June 18. Please encourage your women family members to come to coffee hour next week.

◦ We are planning a trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster in December. Tentative Date: Sat. Dec. 3. The play is “The Miracle of Christmas.” Tentative Price: ~\$85.00 (ticket only). Transportation: TBD. Thank you to Holy Ascension West Chester for helping us secure these tickets. *Only ten tickets are available--we may or may not be able to get more from Holy Ascension.* (Holy Ascension got the tickets; we'll need to pay them.)

h. **Stewardship Committee** (Jerome Burke)

◦ An article on Stewardship is in June's newsletter.

◦ The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring Coffee Hour this month for Stewardship awareness - while construction proceeds.

◦ We need to discuss when/ how to launch Capital improvement campaign in coordination with LTP and subsequently Parish Council. Discussion ensued that we need to come up with estimated costs and timeline of proposed projects/ facility improvements before asking the faithful to commit financial support for these projects

◦ Discussion about the viability of doing a festival to raise funds for the building fund - past experience has demonstrated this type of event is good for community and team building but not very financially rewarding

i. **Sunday School** (vacant) [Report by Cynthia Long]

◦ Sunday School ended on May 21.

◦ We hope to have 4 classes for the 2023-24 year; we are looking into using the Annex for classroom space.

◦ The S.S. Teachers are having a debrief meeting on June 11.

- Gary Sarkessian is hosting a Pool Party for Sunday School teachers, students and families on Saturday, June 24 at 3 p.m.

j. **Teen SOYO** (Alex Ibrahim)

We had a very successful Phillies outing.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. [From March 2023 meeting] -- Update on buying icons for baptisms & confirmations: the Office Manager will purchase some.
- b. Reputable Orthodox Charities to donate to – at the May 2023 meeting we agreed to donate \$250 to the charity in Lebanon that works with children and young people with disabilities; - still awaiting proper contact information and facilitate transfer of donation
- c. Reputable Orthodox Charities to donate to – at the May 2023 meeting, Kerry San Chiricio suggested making a donation to Nguzo Children’s Mission. - has been approved and funded

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Coffee Hour Clean-Up (Gary Sarkessian). PC. agreed and the Office Administrator will list the Coffee Hour Clean-Up volunteers in the bulletins, newsletters, and/or emails according to the following schedule: Week 1: Alex Harne, Craig Leach and teens; Week 2: Faris Ibrahim; Week 3: Gary Sarkessian; Week 4: Kerry San Chirico; (Week 5 TBD).

**IX. General Business Remarks**

- a. Comments from Office Admin. (Cynthia Long)
  - Does anyone have February 2023 minutes? (Jerry was away)
  - Committees/Meetings form- provided and filled in on site for scheduled committee meeting
  - July Readers & Greeters-  
Outline - First Sunday of the Month -SOYO, Second Sunday - PC, Third Sunday Maintenance - Gary S Fourth Sunday- Kerry SC - Adult Education - Fifth Sunday - assigned by FR or rotating – Cynthia ( office manager ) will provide schedule each month and send out reminders to those assigned
  - Printing bulletins when Fr. is away for the 3 Sundays in July - PC to fund

**X. Adjourn-** Motion - Unanimous agreement

*Minutes approved by Parish Council on July 9, 2023.*