



*St Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church
4 Appleton Street
Arlington Massachusetts 02476*

***General Assembly Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday 4/21/2010
Time: 7:00 pm***

The meeting started with prayer led by Fr. Nicholas Kastanas at 7:20 pm.

Paula Parkas motioned that Bessie Theodoulou be elected presiding officer of the meeting, the motion was seconded by Merope Kapetanakis, motion passed.

➤ ***Secretary's Report***

Paula Parkas motions to accept the meeting minutes as distributed, seconded by Ioannis Moutsatsos. Father Kastanas asks that we pause for 5 minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to read these minutes. Greg Kandaros requested that we strike Nick Karras' comments on page three paragraph 1 of the minutes, Nick Karras rejects the amendment. Elizabeth Kyrou requests to move the motion: 1 opposed 2 abstentions the motion passes

➤ ***Election of Elections Committee***

Ted Speros motions to seat the election committee as nominated at the April 11th, 2010 General Assembly, motion seconded by Anna Manolakis: 2 opposed, no abstentions, motion passes

➤ ***Bylaw Amendment***

Arthur Papas on behalf of the election committee, requests that we suspend the vote on the absentee ballot bylaw amendment that was tabled when the April 11th meeting was suspended, so that the election committee can create an improved procedure, further they recommend not using absentee ballots.

Discussion ensued with many parishioners speaking in favor of having an absentee ballot procedure. Chuck Chamallas motions accept the by-law amendment stipulating that for this election only we waive the 10 day deadline in section a paragraph 2, seconded by Merope Kapetanakis. Ioannis Moutsatsos asks if we vote tonight is this legal or do we have to have approval from the Metropolis. Father Kastanas clarifies that we must still present the bylaw to His Eminence for his blessing. Further discussion ensued. Paula Parkas requests to call the motion: 43 in favor; 7 opposed; 6 abstentions.

➤ *Standing By-law committee*

Paul Tsitsopoulos stated that the bylaw codification committee has concluded its task and that they make a recommendation that the parish form a standing by-law committee to codify new amendments and make recommendations for new amendments as the needs of the community change. He further recommends that this committee be comprised of 5-6 members staggered half on and half off for 2 year terms.

Paula Parkas stated that she has been trying to speak on a previous agenda item and that she wants to make a motion to amend the motion that was just passed to remove the need for a witness on the absentee ballot amendment, seconded by Electra Giatrelis. Billy Karras stated that the most important issue is just to have absentee ballots so he recommends keeping it as is for the current election so that we can have something on file. 7 in favor of the amendment, 36 opposed, 12 abstentions motion fails.

Paul Tsitsopoulos motions to form a standing bylaw committee with 6 people holding two year terms whose objective is to maintain the St. Athanasius bylaws and make recommendations on bylaw changes. He also clarifies that for the 1st year 3 will serve 2 years and 3 will serve 1 year. Motion seconded by Eleanor Profis. Discussion ensued. Peter Gennis stated that they should also be responsible for being stewards of official minutes. Elizabeth Kyrou states that while this is a good idea it is not the correct meeting to do this, Paul clarifies that he asks to approve this committee now but seat the committee members in the Fall of 2010. Stella Pathiakias recommends tabling the motion, Paul declines 0 opposed 1 abstention, motion passes.

➤ *Date for closing*

Ted Speros motions to close nominations for parish council on Sunday April 25 at 9pm, seconded by Tasso Georgacopoulos. Dimitri Manolakas asks to amend the motion to close at 1pm Ted accepts the amendment seconded by Anna Manolakas. motions carries unanimously.

➤ *Audit Committee*

Christina Chalapatias presented the Audit Committee recommendations (see attached). Discussion ensued. Ted Speros motions that we accept and implement the recommendations seconded by Stella Kazantzias. Greg asks that the audit committee make a prioritized list of these recommendations to aid in implementation. Motion passes unanimously

➤ *2010 Budget*

Presented by Greg Kandaras

Greg stated that in November the General Assembly voted to remove the expense line items for an administrative assistant; however the budget had been created in such a way that this position was also expected to bring in income and therefore the budget was no longer balanced. Discussion ensued. Greg moves the conversation back to focus on additional staff which could be more administrative help, a youth director or pastoral assistants Stella Kazantzias asks if we are substituting current administrative funds for a new position. Greg stated that the new position was

intended to come from new funds. Greg states that we need to take action on how we will balance the budget and turns the microphone to Alexa Zevitas who has been asked to spearhead a new committee to identify an additional parish employee. She states that the committee wants to take a line by line view of what tasks need to be accomplished in this parish to keep us organized, running and moving forward. We need to look at who are doing these tasks and decide if the right people are doing them and decide if we need to reallocate people or bring new people in. Specifically we need to look at how we can support Fr Kastanas, the Parish Council and the ministries as well as being realistic about what we can afford. She also stated that Father Kastanas is part of the committee which will take into account the strategic survey results. Father Kastanas stated that he does believe that the church has needs and not because we are a huge parish. Elizabeth Kyrou asks if this committee has already been formed why was it not open to the parish and what criteria were the committee members chosen by. Discussion ensues. Paula Parkas motions that we move forward with forming a committee to explore what type of assistant we need which would then present its recommendations to the community to vote on at a future date. Ted Speros seconds. Elizabeth Kyrou stated that we have been told that the parish council has already formed a committee and asks for more transparency. Paula amend her motion to include the present committee plus new members and clarifies that the committee should not spend money but research the issue and come back to us in the fall to present their finding so that the General Assembly can vote on how to move forward. Ioannis Moutsatsos stated that there is also strategic planning going on and hopefully a lot of information will come out of this. For clarification Paula restates her motion as follows: to move forward with the established committee of three parish council members after it has been opened to the general assembly for additional members to explore under the guidance of Father Kastanas what type of pastoral assistant(s) we need and to report back at the fall general assembly with a proposed position. Jessica Karras seconds the motion. Dimitri Manolakis asks to amend the motion to form a new committee from scratch with 7 members plus Father Kastanas, Paula does not accept the amendment. Discussion continued. All in favor of the motion 12, 20 opposed, 13 abstained motion does not carry.

Paul Tsitsopoulos asks that in the interest of time we skip over the capital committee report and the strategic planning update and move right to refinancing. It is stated that on Thursday May 13 at 7pm there will be a report presented to all parishioners on the strategic survey.

➤ ***Refinancing***

Ted Speros spoke about the refinancing effort and presents an update on the progress made. See attached. The committee is working under the approval of the December 2008 General Assembly approval. Discussion ensued.

➤ ***New Business***

George Makredes recommends getting rid of parish council elections, by drawing lots the way the apostles did in the New Testament to replace Judas. He motions that the next General Assembly agenda include a bylaw change to replace elections with a system in which anyone who wants to run puts their name in and members will be selected at random. Seconded by George Pantazopoulos.

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Peter Gennis says that this is against the UPR and can't happen. All in favor of putting this on the agenda for the next meeting. 26 in favor, 13 opposed, 10 abstentions. Motion carries

Motion to adjourn made by Peggy Mitropoulos, seconded by Elizabeth Kyrou at 10:51pm

The meeting concluded with prayer at 10:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cassandra Chamallas

Parish Council Associate Secretary, General Assembly Secretary on Record

Ted Speros
Parish Council President

Fr. Nicholas M. Kastanas
Parish Priest

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Members of the St. Athanasius Parish eligible to vote at elections for the Parish Council may vote by Absentee Ballot under the following conditions:

- a. Application for Absentee Ballots shall be made on a form provided by the Board of Elections.

All applications shall be delivered or mailed to the Board of Elections at the St. Athanasius Church Office at least 10 days before the date set for the election.

All applications shall be signed by the member making the application and shall be witnessed by an adult, not a candidate or related by blood or marriage to a candidate in said election.

The board shall review all such applications and shall cause a ballot to be mailed to all members who the Board has determined are eligible to vote by Absentee Ballot. The decision of the Board of Elections on the eligibility of any member to vote by Absentee Ballot shall be final.

A member who has received an official absentee voting ballot from the Board of Elections may vote by mailing or delivering the same to the Board of Elections at the Church office in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Absentee Ballot." All such ballots must be in the hands of the Board of Elections not later than the commencement of voting.

- b. Prior to mailing or delivering an Absentee Ballot to the Board of Elections, the member shall mark said ballot in the presence of an adult witness not a candidate or related by blood or marriage to a candidate.

Before making the ballot, the member shall exhibit it to said witness who shall satisfy himself that it is unmarked, but the voter shall not allow the witness to see how he/she marks the ballot. The witness shall not communicate with the voter as to how he is to vote.

The voter and the witness shall then execute the affidavit attached to said ballot and the voter shall enclose and seal the ballot and affidavit in an envelope and cause it to be mailed or delivered to the Board of Elections in accordance with paragraph a.

- c. All Absentee Ballots shall be opened and tabulated by the Board of Elections at the time of tabulation of the ballots personally cast.

The Board shall examine the Absentee Ballots and the affidavits to satisfy themselves that the provisions of these by-laws have been complied with.

If the Board deems it necessary, it may compare the signature on the ballot affidavit with the signature on the application for the Absentee Ballot.

The Board of Elections may, by majority vote, disallow any Absentee Ballot which is not in accordance with these by-laws.