

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

Minutes of Special Parish Assembly - April 17, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Parish Council Chairman Lionel Galstaun who asked Fr. Kasparian to offer the opening prayer.

The Chair read the agenda and asked if there are any additions.

The Chair recognized Harry Keleshian who gave the church a check in the amount of \$12,520 from the Armenian Church Endowment Fund on behalf of Suren D. Fesjian. He stated that the endowment earned 6.9% for the year of 1993. Harry is our church's representative with the Endowment Fund. It was noted with gratitude to Mr. Fesjian.

Ara Momjian announced that Irene Shadoian donated 125 shares of Foster Wheeler to the building fund which is valued at approximately \$6,000. It was recorded with appreciation to Irene.

ITEM 1, RENOVATION OF THE EXISTING HOUSE:

The Chair stated that the fuel bill for the house was over \$5,000 and that the house needs renovation and introduced it as an item for discussion.

Harry Keleshian asked what is the intended use of the house? The Chair stated that the house is home for the caretaker and will be used as the parish office, space for the youth and will house the caretaker in a small apartment.

George Davidian asked what work is proposed to be done. The Chair said that the building needs insulation, new windows, heating and air conditioning system. Zaven Tachdjian estimates that the cost will be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The architect will develop plans for the renovation.

George Guendjoian felt that the money could be better spent in the new building by planning for additional space.

George Davidian inquired why this was the first thing on the agenda.

Suren Fesjian moved to table the discussion until we know exactly what has to be done and what the cost would be. The motion was seconded.

Ruth Sanossian asked who are voting members? How can we identify voting members?

It was suggested that the dues paid members move to the front of the church to make the counting of votes easier. There were 73 dues paid members out of a total of 162 total dues paid members.

The motion to table discussion carried unanimously.

Grace Cassidy asked whether the building had landmark status. The Chair said that it did not, however, we had told the White Plains Common Council that we planned to incorporate the building in our plans.

(continued)

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED DESIGN:

The Chair stated that the new design would require us to go through re-approval process or at least most of the re-approval process. The Chair presented the current site plan that had been approved by the Common Council and the site plan for the proposed revised design.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Harry Ekizian asked if we have a cost estimate?

George Guendjoian asked why Tom Ashbaian is not the architect. The Chair stated that Tom Ashbaian is still under contract and is still the project architect.

Ruth Sanossian voiced displeasure with changing plans and spending more time and money.

Concerns were raised about submitting changes to the town board and whether the changes will be approved by the town.

Tom Ashbaian was introduced and he presented his design.

Vatche Aslanian, design consultant, was introduced and presented his design.

The Chair presented estimates showing that on a comparative basis, the new design would be \$260,000 more than the original design.

A motion was made by Aram Dodakian to approve the new design. It was seconded by Puzant Sirabian. The vote was 28 for and 27 against the new design. The motion failed to carry the required two-thirds needed to carry.

A motion was made by Martha Gurahian to go ahead with the new design with any modifications that would be acceptable to Tom Ashbaian. The motion was seconded by Ara Ishkanian.

Tom Ashbaian said that he believes Martha's proposal will not be appropriate and that it would not be fruitful for the church.

The motion was withdrawn.

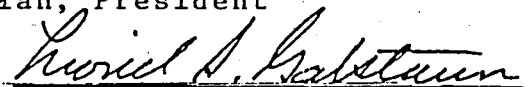
A motion was made by Vincent Gurahian that the existing plan be modified with minor or cosmetic changes, subject to the approval of the Parish Council, such that would not require a new site plan approval process. The motion was seconded.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.


Harry Tavitian, Secretary


Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President


Lionel Galstaun, Chairperson