

ST. MESROB ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
January 28, 1973

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting of the St. Mesrob Armenian Church was called to order at 2:05 p.m., Sunday, January 28, 1973 by the chairman of the parish council, George Stevoff.

The prayer was given by Reverend Guregh Yetenekian.

Harry Cherkinian moved that the number of persons present constitute a quorum. The motion was seconded by Misak Vidian. Motion was carried.

Harry Cherkinian was nominated as chairman of the day and Hunaz Hazarian, secretary.

Nishan Hacherian read the minutes of the two previous parish assembly meetings, the dates being December 19, 1972 and January 17, 1973. The minutes were read and approved.

The chairman then proceeded with the agenda listed for the day.

1. Madagh Committee Report

In the absence of the chairman of the Madagh Committee, John Esayian, Sue Esayian presented the report. The Madagh Committee consists of John Esayian, Sue Esayian and Shockey Gengozian.

It was recommended by the committee that two separate events be held in place of the Madagh. One would consist of having Hokehankist (Requiem Services) in church on a specific Sunday, with a Madagh dinner to be served either in the outdoors behind the church or in the hall for all members of our parish. Since it is expensive when non-members partake in the Madagh this would be one way of eliminating this.

A separate event would be held during the summer months consisting of just an Armenian Picnic with music, food, etc. This would be primarily a money making event.

Question was raised by Charles Dadian as to who would be considered a member. Mrs. Esayian replied that all dues paying persons would be considered members.

Since there are many aspects to consider the chairman stated that this would have to be discussed with the parish council and further deliberations held.

2. Membership Committee Report

Members of the committee are Charles Dadian, Sue Esayian, Elsie Garoukian and Claire Kadamian. Charles Dadian reported that the committee has met three or four times during the year. Due to the planning of the consecration of our church and because some members of this committee were involved in this it was difficult for the committee as a whole to meet.

Mr. Dadian stated that a definite plan would be formulated this year and that they would be contacting members who have not been active for one reason or another.

3. Discussion on committee to be formed to prepare outline of parish council duties. Submitted by John Esayian.

George Stevoff stated that this item does not belong on the agenda per Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, as the Diocesan By-Laws would cover this.

Harry Cherkinian, chairman of the day, suggested that if Mr. Esayian has specific ideas and proposals that he put them in writing and direct them to the parish council.

4. Discussion on changing membership fee to apply per person in lieu of present method. Submitted by Shockey Gengozian.

The present fee is \$15.00 for a single person or widow(er) and \$25.00 for a married couple.

After further discussion for and against the above, a motion was made by Shockey Gengozian that "we have equalization of membership fees regardless of marital status". The motion was seconded by Sam Akgulian. Motion was defeated.

5. Discussion on increasing membership fees. Submitted by Shockey Gengozian.

Discussion on this subject was withdrawn due to the fact that item #4 above was defeated.

6. Election of Trustees for a two year term (1973-1974).

The outgoing members of the Board of Trustees are:

Sahag Akgulian
Harry Boranian
Gene Chardukian
Nishan Hacherian

The following persons were nominated:

Harry Akgulian
Harry Boranian
John Esayian
Charles Garabedian
Mike Janikian
Sam Kachichian
Avak Topalian

Elected were:

Harry Akgulian
Harry Boranian
John Esayian
Charles Garabedian

7. Organizational Reports

Reports by the various organizations within the parish were given.

Only reports on which questions were asked will be reported:

Parish Council

George Stevoff asked everyone's cooperation in parking their cars and that everyone try to be considerate because of the small area now in use.

Sarkis Cherkinian asked that cars be allowed to park behind the parish home, since parking facilities are so tight.

Pat Balian asked that reflectors be put near the road leading to the driveway, as it is difficult to see the driveway in the dark.

Charles Dadian stated that old electric poles can be obtained and put in the parking lot as guidelines for the cars.

Another question was raised with regard to having street lights put in near the church property.

Question was raised regarding the annexation of land to Wind Point - north of 3 Mile Road bordering North Main and Erie. Because of the number of 235 and 236 homes in Caledonia there is a possibility the land mentioned above may be annexed to Wind Point. The question was raised as to how this would affect the church property. Sam Garabedian asked that a committee be appointed to be responsible for attending any meetings involving this matter. The parish council will take this under advisement.

Treasurer's Report

George Sahagian asked how much cash we have on hand as of January 28, 1973. Harry Armaganian replied by stating that the check book balance shows between \$58,000 and \$59,000 on hand. Included in this balance would be funds to take care of landscaping, parking lot, etc.

All assets have been liquidated except for C.D. notes and some shares of stock.

Vartine Cherkinian asked what our mortgage stands at now. Harry Armaganian stated we have a \$77,000 mortgage on the church at the present time -- our yearly payment would be \$7,000 or approximately \$575 per month.

Reserve Fund

Sam Akgulian reported that there is nothing in the Permanent Trust Fund. Al Topalian asked if the committee would be desolved. Since there are some stocks which have not been liquidated, this committee would still be in tact.

Sunday School

Harry Cherkinian asked if there was enough space for the Sunday School. Sam Kaprelian stated we were still two classrooms short; however, the Sunday School could work around it by utilizing the Hall.

Vartine Cherkinian asked that the discipline problem be studied. It was felt that after Sunday School the children should either attend church or their parents should be there to pick them up. They should not be allowed to loiter in the hall ways or the hall.

A.C.Y.O.A.

The chairman asked that the A.C.Y.O.A. in the future submit a more thorough report stating the names of their officers, reports on activities, etc.

8. Audit Committee Report

The committee consists of Sarkis Cherkinian, Mrs. Mary Kamakian, and Arthur Musurlian. Sarkis Cherkinian reported that the parish council books as kept by Harry Armaganian were in very good order.

9. 1973 Budget Report

Charles Dadian moved that the 1973 Budget Report be accepted. Kay Mikaelian seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

10. Formation of Maintenance Committee. Submitted by John Esayian

The maintenance problem has been a topic of discussion by the parish council. George Stevoff stated that everyone's cooperation is needed at this point. Due to expenses involved this problem will have to be handled on a day by day basis.

Sarkis Cherkinian asked that the parish council consider a man as a janitor who has an engineers license -- 3rd class.

Vartine Cherkinian asked in the meantime who would be taking care of the cleaning of the church, hall, washrooms, etc. George Stevoff stated that the parish council is presently taking care of this, along with anyone who would like to volunteer their services.

11. Discussion on naming hall. Submitted by Rose Akgulian.

Various comments were made with regard to the naming of the hall, such as:

"Should be named after someone who has done a lot for the church."

"Should be named St. Mesrob Fellowship Hall."

"Name should not be connected with the name of the church."

Sahag Akgulian moved that the name temporarily be "Armenian Cultural Hall". Nancy Kazarian seconded the motion. Mike Garoukian stated that we should not vote on this at a moment's notice - that this was something to think about seriously.

George Stevoff moved that the motion be tabled. Var Cherkinian seconded the motion. The motion carried and this matter will be tabled until the next parish assembly meeting.

12. Serving of alcoholic beverages on premises. Submitted by Var Cherkinian.

George Stevoff stated that this subject could not be voted upon at a parish assembly per Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. George then read a letter dated June 7, 1972 addressed to Jack Antreassian, Executive Director of the Diocese, asking about the serving of alcoholic beverages in the church hall. He then read a letter addressed to Father Guregh Yetenekian from Mr. Antreassian stating that the serving of alcoholic beverages would be left to the discretion of the parish council - however, it was mentioned if liquor were served within limitation this would be satisfactory - but final decision rests with parish council.

Comments were made against the selling of such beverages, but some people did not see anything wrong in the serving of wine, liquor, etc.

George Stevoff advised that the parish council had made a decision that wine would be permitted at a dinner table (served in the church hall) and also a wine cocktail punch could be served. However, no hard liquor would be permitted.

The following comments were made:

"It is up to the people to make the decision."

"Maintenance has not been decided - this should be shelved for one year."

"What do other churches do? Have we investigated the problems and decisions of other churches?"

"Leave it up to the recommendation of trustees and make a decision later on."

Rose Akgulian moved that "the parish leave it to the discretion of the parish council for a one year period on the serving of alcoholic beverages on the church facilities". Catherine Mikaelian seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 37 For and 21 Against.

13. Fee schedule for rental on new hall.

George Stevoff commented that this would be a difficult thing to state at this time inasmuch as the facilities are not complete. The kitchen is not complete, we do not have enough tables and chairs, the parking lot is not finished.

Mr. Stevoff commented that five weddings have already been booked this year.

He has checked with McCarthy Hall - they allow the serving of alcoholic beverages and they make about \$2,000 a year profit.

Mr. Stevoff also checked with Mrs. Iselin, one of the cities finest caterers, to see what comments she would have with regard to the use of our facilities. After seeing the facilities, Mrs. Iselin commented that they were probably one of the finest in the city and it is not necessary to serve alcoholic beverages.

If a decision is eventually made to have a caterer use the facilities, it is possible we would go to only one caterer. However, since it is too soon to make a decision this will be kept under advisement by the parish council.

14. Comments by George Stevoff

Mr. Stevoff thanked the members of the parish council who worked so hard this year. He mentioned it had been a difficult year with the building project, moving, etc. and thanked the entire congregation for their assistance.

Murad Gengozian moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Kay Mikaelian. Motion carried - meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunaz Hazarian
Hunaz Hazarian
Secretary

H. Chakelian
Chairman