

The RECORD of the minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of the  
Armenian Church for Niagara Falls, N. Y.

COPY

September 25, 1946

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Pursuant to the letter of March 27, 1946, by His Grace, Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, Primate of the Armenian Church of the Eastern Diocese of North America, in which official appointment was made of a Hokehparstue-ton for the City of Niagara Falls and delegating it authority to act as the Construction Committee for the proposed church, I have this day caused to be sent out, notices designating Tuesday Evening, October 1, 1946, the first meeting date of this committee.

And further that, I have sent an invitation to the Rt. Rev. Zgon Vardapet, personal representative of the Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, to be present when this committee convenes.



Kerrigan D. Sarkissian  
Member of the Hokehpartsuetoon.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
FOR NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

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This meeting of the Trustees of the Armenian Church for Niagara Falls was held on Tuesday Evening, October 1, 1946 at the home of Mr. Leo Dardarian, 619 Orchard Parkway, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Mr. Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, acting chairman, was in charge of arrangements necessary for the calling of this meeting.

Calling of the roll... Present \* Mr. Leo Dardarian, Jack Koshian, Paul Ghougasian, Hosrov Toorigian, Sahag Doudourian, Edward Mooradian, Kerrigan D. Sarkissian. -----Absent Mr. Bedros Kazarian, Mamigen Kerkorian.

The meeting opened with a general discussion by all members present that Niagara Falls was sorely in need of a Community or National Center in the manner of a church and hall.

Different members of the Hokehpartsuetoon expressed confidence that the proposed project could be accomplished but explained that first certain financial matters pertaining to the committee itself should be made plain and agreed upon before any success could be assured. Again the outstanding problem was just how much and what our leading citizens would pledge. It was pointed out that if the more prominent businessman did not come forth with a substantial sum, that the community could not effect the balance needed to construct our church and hall. Over some objections, compromises were made and the Hokehpartsuetoon resolved that it organize and elect officers to carry forth the problem to the community.

At this point, Mr. Sarkissian introduced the Rt. Rev. Zgon Vardapet, who arrived a little late due to his long distance traveling.

The Rt. Rev. Zgon Vardapet initiated the meeting by giving a prayer.

The Committee oriented Zgon Vardapet on what had transpired before his arrival. The Vardapet asked that we proceed with the organization of our committee.

Elected to office were the following.....

Honorary President	Mr. Bedros Kazarian
Chairman	Mr. Edward J. Mooradian
Vice Chairman	Mr. Mamigen J. Kerkorian
Treasurer	Mr. Leo Dardarian
Secretary	Mr. Kerrigan D. Sarkissian

As the personal representative of the Arachnord Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, the Rt. Rev. Zgon Vardapet read the official letter from the Prelacy, establishing the authority of the Hokehpartsuetoon and explained what steps this Hokehpartsuetoon had to take to realize the proposed project. He said that he would lend his every aid wherever the committee needed him. He reminded the committee that he was their servant and would labor at all tasks to bring about success.

Aside from the subject of what finances the Hokehpartsuetoon itself would pledge, the main discussion as explained by Zgon Vardapet was organization and the preparing of the Community and the people to launch the project successfully.

It was further agreed that no mention be given of the day's arguments pending the meeting of the Hokehpartueteon on Friday evening, October 4, 1946 at Louis Restaurant. The secretary was instructed to inform certain other members of the businessmen group in the city to attend this meeting and further discuss the subject.

The secretary was further instructed to make a complete record of the minutes of this meeting and the substance thereof be forwarded to the Arachnord.

Since complete harmony and agreement was not effected amongst members, the secretary pleaded that individual members abstain from giving out statements until some concrete plan is evolved. The committee approved this pleading.

Mr. Sarkissian then informed the Hokehpartueteon that the Rt. Rev. Zgon Vardapet was to speak before the Veterans Club on Wed. Oct. 2nd, and before the Mothers' Club on Thursday evening Oct. 3rd.

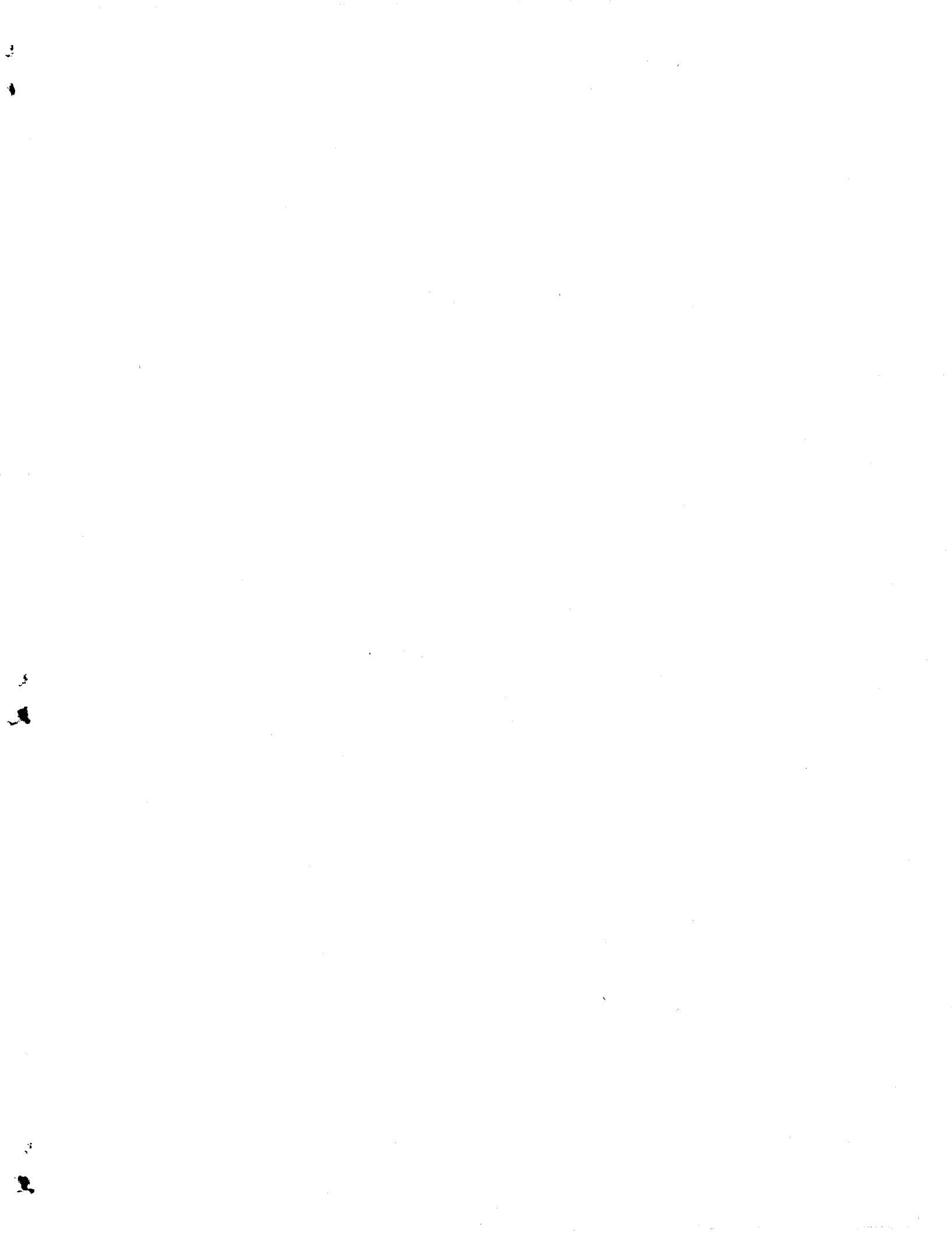
The meeting adjourned with a prayer by Zgon Vardapet.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary

Approved at the meeting of October 4, 1946.

  
Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary.



The Record of the minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of  
the Armenian Church for Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Oct. 10, 1946

COPY

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
FOR NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

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Prayer by Zgon Vardapet

This second meeting of the Hokehpartsuetoon was held on Friday Evening, October 4, 1946 at Louis Restaurant, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Edward J. Mooradian.

Call of the Roll..... Present - Mr. Dardarian, Mr. Dosedourian, Mr. Ghougasian, Mr. Mooradian, Mr. Koshian, Mr. Toorigian and Mr. Sarkissian. ABSENT-- Mr. Kazarian, Mr. Kerkorian.

Also in attendance were several members of the community who were invited to sit in with the committee. Present -- Mr. Avdoian, Mr. Shakarjian, Mr. Basmajian, Mr. Baghdasarian.

Minutes of the meeting for October 1, st were read. Mr. Dardarian moved to accept the minutes as read. Motion seconded by Mr. Toorigian. Motion carried.

Mr. Mooradian proposed in an introductory talk that the committee proceed with the business of establishing plans for our project and expressed that the committee should act in a personal and friendly manner, since they were not strangers to each other.

Mr. Dardarian remarked that for 35 years the Armenian Community in Niagara Falls has achieved a negative result in the advancement of our people. The Community needs uplift and the concensus of the thought is that something should be done. The people are ready to support our proposed objective. Let us do our part in giving leadership and material help.

Mr. Toorigian re-emphasized that any success to be had could only be obtained by action and an active and working committee.

Mr. Dosedourian said, " we are all in agreement, let's proceed. Repitition of desires does not produce results. "

At this juncture, the invited guests made statements upholding the committee's hand. Mr. Shakarjian notably stressed that our job could easily be done and that the people awaited our action.

Mr. Sarkissian, the secretary reminded the Committee that certain pledges were made at a previous meeting and stated, Let us keep our pledges so that we may keep the peoples good will and support. The secretary called the roll and asked the pledges be realized in the form of cash on the day of the general meeting of the people of Niagara Falls to be held on October 9th at Our Lady of Lebanon Church Hall. For the RECORD the following pledges were decreed as cash.. Mr. Dardarian, 2500.00; Mr. Ghougasian, 2000.00; Mr. Koshian, 1000.00; Mr. Dosedourian, 1000.00; Mr. Toorigian 500.00, Mr. Mooradian 250.00.

The Hokehpartsuetoon designated Mr. Sarkissian, Mr. Toorigian, and Mr. Ghougasian to contact other members of the business community for pledges.

A heated dicussion arose from members as to how the funds collected were to be held. The majority of the Hokehpartsuetoon held the belief that since it was an official constituted body, holding certain

trusts and responsibilities, that it was the only body who should be vested with the authority to collect and hold the same in the name of the committee. The discussion of an outside agency to hold such funds, or even higher authority, the committee held that it could not go along with this thought.

Mr. Sarkissian held that any other action to change the status quo of the committee's rightful authority was a challenge to the character, integrity, and trust of its members.

The Rt. Rev Zgon Vardapet entered the discussion explaining certain rules of the church on such matters and expressed the thought that we should adhere to the constitution which governs on all such matters.

Mr. Dardarian dissented remarking that should any authority beyond that of the Hokehpartsuetoon assume control or authority of funds, he would be obliged to lose face and integrity amongst his business associates.

Mr. Sarkissian stated the the Hokehpartsuetoon intended in following the constitution and obeying its provisions but that the local committee was certainly entitled to freedom of action in local matters. Any other action is un American.

The chairman, Mr. Mooradian, then asked that the different recommendations made, be incorporated and presented as a resolution to be passed upon by the Hokehpartsuetoon.

The following resolution was passed by the committee.

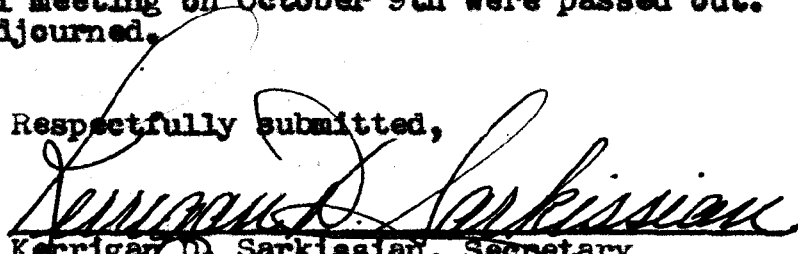
RESOLUTION -- THAT the funds collected should be held and deposited in the name of the ARMENIAN CHURCH BLDG. FUND OF NIAGARA FALLS, and that its use be only for the purpose of construction and that approval and countersigning of higher authority be necessary only in event of construction and that all other direction be held by the local committee; further that, a petty cash fund should be set up to maintain misc. and administrative expenses; and further that with the above reservations the Hokehpartsuetoon conforms with the law of higher authority.

Zgon Vardapet participated in the discussions clearing up matters technical as to church authority and its constitution. The Committee held that it would govern itself according to such convention and constitution but that on matters of local responsibility it was a different situation. The Hokehpartsuetoon is bound with the authority vested in it to perform all such matters that come within its scope, and if local freedom is unobtainable then the reputation, integrity, and work of the Hokehpartsuetoon would suffer.

Zgon Vardapet conducted a prayer.

Notices for the general meeting on October 9th were passed out. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary

Approved at a meeting of Oct. 10, 1946

