

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 1/4/68

Were present at this meeting all members of the Parish Council except Mr. Hagopian who had excused himself because of his illness and Messrs. Ohanian and Hekimian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Making a review of our financial situation Mr. Gregory explained that the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the special account was not made because we were able to handle this month (December 1967) with additional income to our regular account. Nevertheless we will have to make a transfer of at least \$ 500.00 to take care of the payment of the Warwick Hotel since as agreed by the current session of the Council meeting this outstanding bill is due and payable according to our earliest commitment with the Warwick Hotel.

The chairman gave a precise and concise account of the New Year's affair which had been trusted to the H.A.W.A. The total profit from this had amounted to \$ 192.00 which amount had already been handed over to us. This had been a successful evening, the attendance being approx. 50 persons, with a band playing and consisting of Messrs. Jani Ohanian, Haikaz Ohanian and the younger Ohanian, all food donated by members of the H.A.W.A. Mr. Gregory as an encouragement and appreciation of the success made a donation of \$ 25.00.

The Parish Council will address a letter of thanks to the H.A.W.A. The question of our future activities was discussed and it was pointed out that this is the moment at the beginning of the Year to make any announcement and reservations for the current year. The Church Women's Auxiliary who have always the preference would make their plan known ahead of time and immediately for that purpose and Mr. Sanjakian was again asked to convey this resolution to Mrs. Sanjakian.

The letter of the Very Rev. Bishop V. Kebreslian dated December 15, was read. This being in reference to the Vartanantz affair and as suggested we are going to approach Father Arakelian for this matter. Already Mr. Ohanian had agreed to write to that effect but to the absence to Mr. Ohanian to the present meeting we are also going to write to Father Arakelian and give him the decision of the Council. This after discussion was agreed to be as follows.

A cultural program with serving of coffee and refreshments Saturday February 24, 1968 at the Church and Center. Admission free. Sunday the 25 th, celebration of the Armenian Mass at 10.00 A.M. and a subsequent buffet dinner to be held in the Center Bldg at 1.00 P.M. Admission for Dinner, minimum donation for adults \$ 3.00 for children from the age of 12 \$ 1.50. Mr. Sanjakian was asked to make necessary arrangements with the Church Ladies Auxiliary for the food to be prepared on those two occasions.

PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CHAIRMAN
H. C. BARDOONY
VICE CHAIRMAN
ZAVEN KIRKSHARIAN
SECRETARY
K. S. GREGORY
TREASURER

ANTON HAGOPIAN
YOHANNES HEKIMIAN
JANI CHANIAN
MIKE SANJAKIAN
ADVISORS

Zaven Kirksharian

(To be continued)

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(Continued)

Parish Council meeting 1/4/68

In our letter to Father Arakelian we are going to ask him to provide us with the necessary means of having our cultural program. Movies, lecture, songs, etc. etc. We should also learn about the Father's traveling plans, about the quality of films eventually the kind of projector and others.

As regards the expenses that this affair will have to take care of there are the trip itself with air ticket which will be paid by our treasury, the hotel accommodations expenses will be donated by Mr. S. Saxenian, and also a special offering gift to the celebrant priest the "jhamoots" in the amount of \$ 100.00 will be donated jointly half and half by Messrs. Baroony and Gregory. The Council expressed their appreciation to the above donors.

It was agreed to reimburse Mr. Levon Harrison with the expenses he incurred with the purchase of the necessary items for the future Bingo games to be held in our Center. In regard to this the Council gave their approval for such a Bingo party to be held on January the 27 th and to be organized by the HAWA with all proceeds going to our organization.

Due to the forthcoming Mass celebration and the need of our Church Choir, Mr. Sanjakian volunteered to approach Mr. Jacques Bedevian and have ^{him} accept to direct the choir again and have very shortly some choir practice.

On further reviewing the New Year's party, the Council examined the means of improving the appearance of the Center Back Bldg. This was not found adequate for future activities and the Council asked from Mr. Gregory to study such a project bearing in mind our financial capabilities and the necessity of eliminating the structure containing the bathroom just in the middle of the Center by moving it outside, with a closet for clothes and separate restrooms facilities for men and Ladies.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Kirksharian

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 9/14/67

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council except Mr. Hekimian.

Our financial situation was reviewed. To the deep concern of all present it was realized that we had not been able to pay yet our mortgage loan for the months of September and that was due on the first. Apart from that we have also debts that are past due for the approx. amount of \$ 200.00. The balance in our regular account in the bank is for only \$ 72.00.

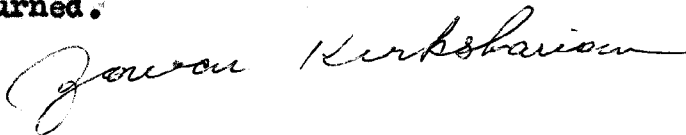
This situation was created by the lack of interest and support of all the armenian community. Monthly pledges have dwindled to an insufficient amount. If these conditions continue we will have no other alternative than advise the Diocese about it in order that a final decision may be taken since the property belongs to the Armenian Church of America. (This suggestion was made by Mr. K.S. Gregory)

On the other hand there could be still hope in case we could find means of a radical change in the attitude of so many.

Once again it was explained by older members of the Council to rather new elected members about this whole affair regarding our present difficulties and the way the Church and Community Center was formed. The tactless and rough attitude of a few members of our organization has created a rift between Armenians that is Armenians wishing to have a Center and a Church, Armenians for a Church only and Armenians and Allied for Center Only.

As regard the forthcoming evening on the occasion of November 4 at the Warwick as well as all others regarding the same affair, we should keep going on with our efforts. In that respect we have to order immediately about 500 tickets for admission to the Banquet and as decided previously for an entrance fee of \$ 9.00 per person.

The meeting was adjourned.



PARISH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 10/5/67

Were present at this meeting Messrs. S. Saxenian, Anton Hagopian, Jani Ohanian and Z. Kirksharian. Messrs. K.S. Gregory, H.C. Baroony, Mike Sanjakian were not able to attend.

Due to the absence of many of the members it was decided to call another meeting very shortly in view of so many outstanding matters referring to the Anniversary affair.

It was decided to print also letters that will have to be sent together with Banquet tickets. Banquet tickets numbering from 1 to 100 were handed over to Mr. Hagopian who accepted to do his best with out of town people, and also with some people he would know personally. Tickets from 101 to 120 were taken also with Mr. Saxenian.

At our next meeting we should remind Mr. Gregory about the special letters that were to be mailed to Mr. Baroony's friends informing them about the double occasion we were celebrating that day that is the Church Anniversary and Mr. Baroony's 90 th birthday. We have received a check in the amount of \$ 150.00 from the H.A.W.A. and an appropriate letter of thanks will be forwarded to them. Furthermore it was accepted that the H.A.W.A. would have the right to organize evenings in our Center for the benefit of our organization. Proposed future events are October 28, Halloween party, in November 1967 card party etc. etc.

Our financial situation due to the absence of Mr. Gregory was not discussed but postpone to our next meeting. It was learned through Mr. Gregory's secretary that our balance after payment of the mortgage last month was again a very low of about \$ 57.00. As regard the payment of the mortgage of September 1, it was that the payment was met only because Messrs. Saxenian, Gregory and Baroony had made a special contribution to that effect, this being a suggestion of Mr. Gregory that each one of them donate \$ 75.00. The Council deeply appreciates this gesture and expresses their thanks.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Kirksharian

PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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TREASURER

ANTON HAGOPIAN
YOHANNES HEKIMIAN
JANI CHANIAN
MIKE SANJAKIAN
ADVISORS

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 1967

Were present at this meeting Messrs. Stephen Saxenian, H.C. Bardooony, Zaven Kirksharian, K.S. Gregory, Anton Hagopian, Yohannes Hekimian, Mike Sanjakian. Mr. Janá Ohanian was absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Mr. Gregory will try to take care of the question of the taxes raised by the city authorities, this being still unsettled. Also at our next meeting or occasion we should get in touch with Mr. Levon Harrison in regard to the Bingo affair that needs to be organized and necessary equipment provided for. It was learned that our efforts concerning the collection of the arrears from pledges had not been successful. Apart from some minor donations nothing more concrete was achieved. A report to that effect presented by Mrs. Shake Berberian was read. We have some other arrears that we are trying to collect, this being less arduous considering that the members concerned this time are more closely associated with our organization. The question of fund raising is very important. We have not been able to meet yet our financial obligations this month, concerning the payment of the mortgage and other bills. It is hoped that after collecting said pledges we will be in a position to do so. A letter from the Houston Armenian Womens Association was presented to the attention of the Parish Council. In this letter it is requested that the Church picnic area be used by this Association on Sunday, September 24, at 1.00 P.M. Considering our previous promises to this group, the Parish Council after voting on this issue accepted this request and an appropriate letter was suggested to be mailed as an answer. The result of the voting was five in favor and two against. Messrs. Bardooony and Sanjakian were only against. It was suggested that another date was to be designated for a somehow similar affair to be organized by our Ladies group. The date could not coincide with the other picnic since also because the letter of the Womens Association of Houston was addressed earlier and the date of their request officially to us is June 30, 1967. As regard the sales of the tickets for the raffle and November affair, we are not in a favorable position. Our sales so far have reached only the amount of approximately \$ 1,000.00 and if this trend continues we will not be able to meet our obligations. A promotion concerning the sales of more additional tickets is the only solution. Parish council members promised to seek individually for any means of achieving that goal. The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Kirksharian

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 1, 1967

Were present at this meeting all members except Messrs. Hekimian and Ohanian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and before being approved the following correction was made. " Mr. Hagopian is not against the idea of the raffle. He only would like to stress that he opposes the expensive gifts and would have rather preferred less expensive ones.

Our financial situation was reviewed and it was realized that the balance of our parish council account had even dwindled more. Our monthly income as regards the donations received to that purpose were very low, people having almost forgotten about his. In order to remedy to this situation it was agreed that Mr. Hagopian would approach Mrs. Shake Berberian to persuade her to try to take of these delinquant accounts on behalf of the Parish Council. A list to that effect will be handled to Mr. Hagopian by the secretary in time before the departure of Mr. Hagopian for his summer vacation.

The chairman advised that he and Mr. Bardoony had talked to His Grace the Bishop about the November 4 affair and together they had been successful in persuading him to be here on that occasion. The Bishop would be here probably either Thursday or Friday but he will have to leave early Sunday.

The books of the treasury of the Parish Council were handed to Mr. K.S. Gregory. Mr. Bardoony proposed to print new receipt books as the old ones we have were found to be obsolete.

Mr. K.S. Gregory read the letter he had composed about the raffle tickets to be sent to people out of State, and he was congratulated about the perfect presentation of the opinion and hopes of the Armenian Community. The said letter is going to be printed after a proof is presented to us for approval, names of the Parish Council members only to be added with the letterhead.

This letter will be mailed together with 3 books of tickets to the persons included in the list submitted by Father Arakelian. As Mr. Hagopian was going to handle this responsibility, a way should be found in order to not delay this due to the absence of the latter which will begin next week and will last up to the month of August.

It was agreed that in the meantime Mr. Gregory will prepare also a follow up letter to be mailed later to all those who would not have not answered our original letter.

A discussion arose about the subject of what people were to be authorized to be sponsors for the forthcoming first Saturday of the month gatherings. Although as recorded in our last minutes of May 4, 1967, this would mean "affairs should be sponsored by members of the community individually" thus implying that any armenian or allied could sponsor such event, this resolution was contested by Messrs. Bardoony, Sanjakian and Mrs. Sanjakian. Accordingly, it was decided the Parish Council

B. Kerhobian

(to be continued)

would ultimately decide by a vote on this question. As regards the purchase of the Mustang for our raffle, it was suggested that we could get a real bargain price if we could approach the Public Relation Department of the Ford Co. It seems that other organizations in the past have had very successful dealings to that effect for similar cases. Mr. Leon Harrison accepted to take care of the organization of Bingo games for the center and promised to present his report the soonest possible about this question. It was decided that the income from the sales of the raffle tickets should be deposited in a special bank account. The chariman brought forth the question of the arrears in city taxes as claimed by a letter that was read. Due to our special status the City recognized our exemption for 1966 and on, but for the year 1965 and specially since the property was bought only on July of that year, we were being charged for an amount of approx. \$ 250.00. On the other hand at the original deal of the purchase of the property from Mr. Sweet, the latter had given us credit in the amount of \$ 175.00 as disclosed by the Main Title Co of Houston and this was on a pro rate basis. This question requiring some attention in order to get some kind of reduction from city authorities, Mr. Gregory accepted to take care of this matter and do his best to that respect. The meeting was adjurned.

James Harrison

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of May 4, 1967

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council except Messrs. Hekimian and Ohanian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The financial situation was reviewed. Our present balance of the Parish Council fund is \$ 605.00 and on the other hand the expenses we have to meet are for the same amount. This situation should be improved with some fund raising activities and also by going after our delinquents accounts. Reminders could be sent to all the people who have arrears. The Ladies Auxiliary who joined later on our meeting are proposing to hold a gathering Sunday May 21. We could send invitations to all members of the community advising them about this event which will comprise a get together with buffet dinner at \$ 2.00 for adults and \$ 1.00 for children. We could designate this as an affair on the occasion of the second anniversary of the purchase of the property. In order to have a continuous program of activities, it was decided and agreed to organize an event on permanent basis if possible the first Saturday of each month at 5.00 P.M. and on. During this time, we could try to have short educational program followed by music dance and games. A snack and coffee could be served from which a small income could be expected. These affairs should be sponsored by members of the community individually and expenses reimbursed to them. An invitation to that effect will be forwarded by mail.

The necessity of eliminating the building fund was discussed and it was agreed to eliminate this and keep all our funds with the Parish Council fund since the treasurer of the Parish Council is Mr. Gregory who has accepted also to do his best in that effect. The books and accounts will be handed over to him the soonest possible.

The chairman announced that he has been successful in leasing a hall at the Warwick Hotel for the forthcoming big event of the first anniversary of the Church consecration. There are papers sent by the Hotel describing the proposed arrangements.

The present of the Primate to this gathering is very important and Mr. Bardoony will try to talk to the Bishop and try to persuade him to be present at this affair.

The tickets of the raffle are being printed and as soon as these are ready we are going to hold a special gathering calling everybody in the community that can be of help. Mr. Hagopian who will handle the out of town people promised his full support although he opposes the idea. Mr. Gregory will take care of the invitation to be sent to Mr. Bardoony's friends and also about the letter to be composed specially to that effect. Letter and lists of the members of the clergy and members of the various parishes were handed over to Messrs. Gregory and Hagopian. After starting the initial move for the sales of the tickets we have to make monthly special meetings to keep in touch with our progress.

The meeting was adjourned.

Joseph Hekimian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of April 6, 1967

St. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER

1111 BURNS BL.

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

except Mr. Ohanian.

Were present at this meeting all Parish Council members, From the newly appointed members Mr. K.S. Gregory was also present.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

The chairman announced that Mr. Asbedian due to his studies after his regular working hours will not be able to attend the Parish Council meetings.

The proposal of Mr. Saxenian, for the insurance of the Church items and contents against fire and burglary, was accepted. The amounts to be covered are \$ 1,000.00 for fire and same amount for burglary.

The H.A.W.A. have approached the Council for the use of the back building and lot. This is in reference to their annual picnic which is organized free of charge, the participants bringing their own food and drinks. Since this is not a fund raising activity, the Parish Council decided to grant permission to their request for the last Sunday in May without charges. In view of the importance in having at least one activity or affair per month, the Parish Council will write to Mrs. Rejebian, the well known lecturer from Dallas, to give a book review on the book the Armenian Church by Ormanian, as suggested by Mr. Gregory. We could also approach Mrs. Berberian Shake her sister. We hope to get Mrs. Rejebian's approval since she had once offered her services. This affair could be arranged for the latter part of April or early May. After the lecture it will be also appropriate to have a lighter entertainment program with recorded armenian folk music and dancing. No admittance should be charged for this but we could later on initiate a voluntary donation movement.

As regards the most serious fund raising activities that we will have as per suggestions by Father Arakelian, Messrs. Stephen Saxenian and K.S. Gregory have accepted to be co-chairmen of the project. This will consist of a huge raffle with the proposed sale of 10,000 tickets valued at \$ 1.00 each with first prize a car, then a color T.V. and a rug. This will be drawn in November during the visit of the Bishop on the occasion of the first anniversary of the dedication ceremonies. The success of this raffle will depend on the efforts of everybody, and specially, sale of tickets to the other parished of the Diocese, roster of Armenians to invite next week for their help in this matter, list of friends of Mr. Bardoony since the anniversary will coincide with the 90th birthday, invitations to be sent to these friends as well as other Armenians and sympathizers, letters to be sent by Mr. Hagopian to out of town people, Mr. Gregory to write letter of invitations in connection with Mr. Bardoony's birthday, list from out of state donors to be obtained from Father Arakelian.

Since we do not know yet about the arrangements concerning the banquet, we should wait until next week to take more definite action. Messrs. Stephen Saxenian and Yoxhannes Hekimian are to get an interview with Mr. Mecom during which time it will be decided if we could use the Warwick Hotel. If successful we could announce that the event will take place there and that the price for the ticket per ^{person} ~~ticket~~ will be \$ 9.00 in association with the 90 years of age of Mr. Bardoony.

As regards the raffle tickets we could print these through somebody we know in order to have these if possible as a donation. These tickets could be 12 in one book. Every Armenian in business should make his best to try to sell as much as he can to people who are in contact with him on business matters. The meeting was adjurned.

James Kerpolian

MINUTES OF AN ARMEAN CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the special meeting of March 27, 1967

This meeting was held after Easter Sunday in order to review all events relating to the Easter Affair and also about future directives.

Under the presidency of Father Arakelian were present Messrs. Stephen Saxenian, H.C. Bardoony, K.S. Gregory, Yohannes Hekimian, Mike Sanjakian, Jani Ohanian, Z. Kirksharian, Mmes Rose Sanjakian, Emma Hagopian, Sona Kirksharian, Anna Harrison Vanoush Ohanian. Were also present as guests, Mr. Leon Harrison, Mrs. Hekimian and Miss Lucette Agassian.

Prior to the meeting, a delicious meal prepared by the Sanjakians was served to all present.

The proceeds from the Easter Affair totalled approximately \$ 400.00. Half of this amount came from donations and the other half from the buffet dinner tickets. The attendance was less than previous such affairs and this consequently affected our income. In trying to find out the reasons about this, it was agreed that this was due to Easter celebrations in other churches, and primarily that Easter being considered a family affair many had stayed away. As a remedy to our next Easter celebration, it was suggested to hold our services and banquet on the Eve of Easter as customary in the traditions of the Armenian Church, that is on a Saturday afternoon and evening.

The Reverend announced the nomination of two new members to the Parish Council : Messrs. K.S. Gregory and Varoujan Asbedian.

Some recommendations of Father Leon have been as follows:

A church registrar for Baptisms and Marriages.

Two events with church services per year, at Easter and at the consecration anniversary.

Educational programs primarily and enjoyment gatherings after.

Films for educational purposes to be sent by New York and film showings.

Lectures

Invitations to other groups, for instance to the Brookshire people or the H.A.W. Assoc.

Educational programs to be free without admission but for movie nights a small charge of .50 ¢

One educational night per month.

Organize the Back Hall for banquets.

Inventory book of church items.

Lock all valuable items.

A golden book of gifts and donations for our records.

Since our eminent member Mr. H.C. Bardoony has reached the age of nin ety to celebrate his birthday at the same as the anniversary of the consecration on November 5, 1967.

Yousan Hekimian

(to be continued)

As regards the church items that have been already donated Father Levon will take care of these at his return to New York. Mr. Leon Harrison has already bought and donated the chalice with a value of \$ 250.00. Apart from his other donations, Mr. K.S. Gregory is also donating a filing cabinet and also is interested in obtaining two cymbals for the church services. It was learned that Mrs Seta Allen had talked to Father Levon about an ornamental bible that she will donate and that will be brought into this country very shortly through her relatives from abroad.

The importance of the pamphlets was again stressed. Mrs. Anna Harrison accepted the task to prepare these for a beginning on a quarterly basis. She will take care of the preparation by using every help and assistance she entitles to get from all other members.

Father Arakelian left some educational books, the value of which was not known. He will write us about this question on his return to N.Y. and the money will then be forwarded to him after sale. Already some members have taken a few of these books and the price will be communicated to them as soon as available.

The meeting was adjourned.

Joseph K. Harrison

Minutes of the special meeting of March 24, 1967

This meeting prior to the Easter Mass ceremonies was held under the presidency of Rev. Father Levon Arakelian. Were present also apart from the Father, Mr. Stephen Saxonian, M.C. Baroony, Anton Hagopian, Z. Kirksharian, Yohannes Hekimian, Mike Sanjakian Jani Ohanian of the Parish Council. Also Mrs. Rose Sanjakian Emma Hagopian, Anna Harrison, Sona Kirksharian, Vanoush Ohanian Marie Tasian from the Ladies Ayxiliary. Weee also present as guests ~~Messrs~~ Leon Harrison & Dr. Ed Tasian.

The meeting started with the recitation of a prayer by Father Levon. The minutes of the Parish Council and Ladies Auxiliary of their previous meetings were read and approved.

The financial situation was reviewed. The Parish Council account has a balance of \$ 970.00, the Ladies Auciliary about \$ 120.00 and the Bldg Fund about \$ 120.00. It was realized that we were way behing in our collections of pledges and donations and we should try to get more money from that respect.

We should decide upon several forthcoming events to try to raise money. Next November for instance, being the anniversary of the date of consecration of the Church would be a good occasion to accomplish some success. We could also write to the other parishes of the Diocese abd ask them about some contribution. By giving all the necessary advertisement and by campaining strongly this could be a major event. For this purpose we should get a very nice place like the Warwick Hotel and have the Church services in our Building.

Next month, during every April 24, being the Day of Martyrs it would be appropriate to arrange, if possible, a cultural event. The question of a raffle was also raised. We could discuss this and find out about the means of organizing it. It was suggested that several thosands of a value of one dollar each should be sold. Firstprize a foreign car, or a color T.V., a rug or radio.

It was decided to make the first Sunday of the month of November each as the anniversary date of the consecration. As the proposed banquet at the Warwick Hotel which is to be chosen, if Mr. Hekimian who graciously accepted to get in touch with Mr. Mecom for that effect. succeeds, the price for the first consecration banquet could be \$ 15.00 for a couple.

It was suggested that we find and nominate an assistant treasurer whose job will be to help with our collections by either talking to our delinquants accounts personally or by telephone calls.

It was decided to increase if possible the Parish council by two new members, since the participation of more people will be more advantageous to our projects.

Benfore adjurning, the Father reviewed the preparations made for the Church services and the buffet dinner for Easter Sunday.

Zorob. Kirksharian

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 2, 1967

Were present at this meeting all members of the Parish Council except Messrs. Hagopian and Hekimian. Was also present Mr. K.S. Gregory. The minutes of the previous parish council meeting were read and approved.

Due to the forthcoming event of Easter it was suggested that we check constantly on the progress of the construction of the patio and the back building. This job should have top priority. The importance of an appropriate sign for our Church and Center was discussed. Mr. Ohanian has accepted to take care of the preparation of said sign with english lettering - Saint George Armenian Church & Center and armenian lettering Sourp Kevorl Haiyastaniantz Hagheghetzi. He will submit a drawing to begin with and will later on use the boards for that purpose that Mr. Sanjakian has.

The Vartanantz event was reviewed and it was brought forth that the evening was a successful one as regard the interest of the people who were present and also the fund raising matter which brought a net income to our treasure in the amount of \$ 406.00. As explained and realized the contribution of Mr Hekimian has been a major point. Our financial situation was reviewed and it was reported that our balance in the parish council fund was \$ 985.81.

The chariman announced that he had been approached by the H.A.W.A. in answer to our letter to that organization dated Marsh 8, 1966 and in view of the present facilities and the regulations and the amount of donations requested from them.

It was decided that the use of the Center will be granted to these Ladies monthly meeting. As far as the fund raising activities of this group is concerned, this is also accepted but under condition that a reasonable donation be received. The amount of this donation is not ~~fi~~ determined and this should not be a set fee but whatever the H.A.W.A. find fair for the occasion. On these events the front building where the Chapel exists, ~~that~~ could be used for cultural and rather serious gatherings, excluding the serving of alcoholic beverages, games and dances. On the other hand, the Hall and the Patio in the back building can be used on all occasions without restrictions. At any time, the kitchen facilities will be available for the ladies group. It would be wise that in the event of any party, this group get a clearance ahead of time in order that there should be no interference with the activities of the Church and Center.

As regard the preparations for the Easter Mass, the menu will comprise chicken, "pilaff", vegetable, salad, coffee, cakes. Mr. Sanjakian had obtained a favorable offer of .37½ ¢ for the chicken and it was agreed that he should order 100 chickens, these to be cooked by either ourselves or a caretaker. Mrs. Heynaud will be approached for the publicity in the papers and an appropriate article will be prepared to that effect. We will need again about 50 additional chairs and some table that we could rent for from Abbot Rentals as before. The pamphlet and program sent by Father Arakelian was very much appreciated. We will mail these about 2 weeks before Easter.

Dr. Tasian and Peter Horasanian will ^{some of} have to be contacted for their participation in the Mass. Already ~~the books with~~ ~~Mr. Joseph Har~~ ~~needed~~ for the Church have been donated.

Parish Council meeting of March 2, 1967

(continued)

donated the Chalice valued at \$ 250.00. Mr. Gregory donated the Hand Cross at \$ 100.00 and he also donated the Book of Armenian Folk songs valued at \$ 35.00 as per Father Arakelian letter. Mr. Bardony donated the Censer at \$ 150.00 and Mr. S. Saxenian donated the Lantern at \$ 75.00.

The meeting was adjourned and members of the Parish Council moved into the next room where the Choir Group was having rehearsals.

Zoum Kisharian

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF JANUARY 5, 1967

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 S. GARDNER
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting of December the 8th were read and approved.

To comply with the Internal Revenue Service request about the amendments to our Charter it was decided to apply for approval to the right authorities in Texas for the name to be given to our organization in order to avoid confusion between New York and Houston. That name has been decided as "Saint George Armenian Church and Center".

As regards the financial situation of the Budget Fund, Mr. Gregory will be asked to produce check book, cancelled checks and invoices paid for the year 1966 in order to enable us to prepare the annual report of our Parish.

The New Years Eve party event has brought an income of \$ 125.50 less expenses \$ 10.68 leaving a net of \$ 114.82. Of the latter amount 40% was given to the Ladies Auxillary, that is the amount of \$ 46.00. This in accordance to the By Laws of the Women's Guild of the Armenian Church. Furthermore the articles of how the income of the Women's Auxillary could be used or kept were again read in order that every member of the Council acquaints himself. The Ladies who have a copy of their By-Laws should also again read and understand the meaning of every article so that they conform to the text.

As no expenditure is allowed without the approval of the Parish Council, the Ladies should prepare a list and estimate of their needs as kitchenware and plates and submit for approval. Mr. Sanjakian having been lukewarm to this proposal which incidentally was approved by all other members, Mr. Baroony accepted to see it that this was carried on. He will have that list and estimate presented. It was understood that we should always avoid to make expenses without the approval of the Council. As regard the alternative that was presented by Mr. Sweet for the amortization of the mortgage, the Parish Council unanimously accepted the alternative of paying the amount of \$ 5,000.00 to reduce the principal balance which will be then for \$ 24,307.72. It was explained that in making a new loan after the payment our payments up to the amortization completely on the basis of 222 months time \$ 190.00 will be \$ 42,180.00. On the other by continuing with the present rate and conditions the complete amortization will require approximately 13 1/2 years that is 162 months time \$ 216.00 for a total of only \$ 34,992.00. Therefore we are going to issue check to Mr. Sweet to that effect.

Our financial situation was reviewed. Our present balance of the Parish account is \$ 6,198.69. From this we will pay the amount of \$ 5,000.00 to Mr. Sweet. We should try to raise more money. It was explained that apart from the donations that were not all received yet, our monthly donations of members and sympathizers are very low at this moment. Mr. Hekimian, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee promised to make every effort in order to remedy to this unfavorable situation.

B. K.

Mr. Hekimian will approach every people with delinquents accounts and will do his best to have all interested to our organization. He hopes to be able to present a favorable report in our next meeting. Before our monthly income from that source went down, we were making approx. \$ 200.00 monthly, unfortunately that amount has fallen down to half.

The chairman suggested that we should primarily found any other source of income and it was suggested that the next event on the Calendar being St. Vartanantz an appropriate gathering be held ^{on} that occasion on Sunday February the 5th. We could have that evening at 5.00 P.M. an afternoon affair with the serving of coffee, tea cookies, cakes etc. etc. and charge \$ 1.00 for admission with all children free. The main part of the event will be a cultural one stressing the importance of Vartan Day and an appropriate cultural part should be on the program. Mr. Ohanian will be in charge of the program of the day as Chairman of the Cultural Affairs and it will be with cooperation of the Social Affairs Chairman Mr. Sanjakian. Mr. Bardony will study the possibility of having a play with historical costumes, recitation ^{of} poems, songs, etc. This will be also a suitable ^{way} to raise some more funds. Mr. Hekimian will provide the items that will permit us to organize a raffle. Mr. Hekimian will do his best to procure several such items as T.V. set, food certificates from U To Tem, hair dryer, bracelets from Mr. Bardony and many others. He will supervise the sales of tickets for that purpose. We should also try to procure books from armenian newspapers in the nation or our Diocese in New York about specially the Vartanantz part of the Armenian History. The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Hekimian

PARISH COUNCIL

EL. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Armenian Church of Houston

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

(Minutes December 8th, 1966)

This event is going to take place mostly in the back building and it was realized that we were going to need that section which should be ready the soonest possible. The cost of the electrical alterations being approx. \$ 225.00 was approved. Mr. Sanjakian is going to take care of the sheet rocking of the ceiling at the back end and he will report the cost before giving the order. It was suggested that the cost of some curtains would be approx. 50.00 and also an additional amount of about \$ 50.00 will be necessary for painting. The covering of the back patio could be also done if in time with an approximate labor cost of \$ 50.00 since we have already bought all the needed material. There was a discussion about the floor which at the time is made of tile. There were suggestions to carpet all the area with carpet to be furnished by Mr. Bardoony and pad and installation to be supplied by Mr. Saxonian. This suggestion was not approved yet as there were some concern about the carpet not being suitable for dancing and it could be soiled easily. As regard the furniture for this section, it was suggested that, may be, if we could contact Mr. Hovas, a suitable arrangement could be reached.

The following items on the agenda of the present meeting were not discussed due to lack of time. It is hoped that these will be again remembered at our next meeting. These are : Amendments to our Charter as instructions Internal Revenue Service, Financial situation of the Bldg Fund needed for our annual report of the Parish.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Kirksharain

PARISH COUNCIL **ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER**
1111 BERING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Armenian Church of Houston

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF December 8th, 1966

Were present at this meeting all members of the Parish Council except Mr. Jani Ohanian who had excused himself. Was also present Mr. K. S. Gregory, member of the Bldg Committee.

The minutes of the previous special meeting under the presidency of His Grace were read and approved.

The need of a bulletin board was again emphasized in order to use this, without delay, by a listing of assignments regarding every member's services.

The Bldg committee is to take care of sign to be erected with the name as approved by Serpazan Hayr " Saint George Armenian Church and Center " in English and St. George Armenian Church in smaller characters in armenian.

As regard the " no smoking signs" in the area of the Chapel, this could be explained differently in their meaning and interpretation and accordingly although we will enforce this prohibition it was not agreed that the presence of these signs will reinforce this position.

Our financial situation was reviewed after the fund raising of the consecration ceremonies. All pledges were not made with the condition that payments should be made immediately and accordingly we had not reached a quota that will allow us to make a payment for the amortization of the loan on the property as suggested in our previous meeting. Mr. Hagopian proposed that the amount to that effect be limited to \$ 5,000.00. This motion was seconded and approved by voting : all in favor with one abstention of Mr Bardoony. We are going to get in touch with Mr. Sweet about the necessary arrangements about the principal, the balance left, if need be with the Main Title Co., in order to study the best way to make a profitable deal, and report to the Parish Council before final decision.

The expenses incurred for the Buffet Dinner and the alteration were presented by Mr. Sanjakian. These were approved and a check in the amount of \$ 463.27 was issued representing disbursement of cost of material, labor, cutting of grass, reimbursement of loans, food for the dinner (less donations by Mr. Bardoony)

The "New Year's Eve" affair will be organized by the Ladies Auxiliary with the cooperation of every individual these ladies will like to approach in order to not overburden a few persons. The price was decided as follows. \$ 3.00 for adults \$ 1.50 for teenagers and under 12 years old free of charge. It was agreed that a cold buffet would be most appropriate. Also we could have music and some games.

J. Kerkshorian

(to be continued)

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of November 3, 1966

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council except Mr. Azadian.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the letter of the Serpazan Hayre were read.

The question of the alterations of the back building were discussed and it was accepted that although there had been suggestions on our previous meeting for such a project no definite resolution was taken to carry out this plan. These alterations have already been given priority without any agreement on the financial question. The Council had not discussed this and nothing was brought forth to its attention to that effect. Accordingly according to the Chairman the cost is to be paid by Messrs Bardoony and Sanjakian. Although according to Mr. Bardoony he was under the impression that the Bldg Committee had an approval to go ahead, this may be to a misunderstanding, Mr. Bardoony would accept to pay for the cost. Our financial situation at this moment was reviewed again shortly and it was realized that we were not able to raise the necessary funds for our monthly loan payments. Therefore, we should try to save before opening new expensive projects. A discussion erupted between the Chairman and Mr. Sanjakian about the reasons that brought this difficult situation on our finances in which later on, took part also Mr. Hekkimian.

As regard the visit of the Serpazan Hayre it was agreed to make reservations in due time at the Shamrock Hilton, this hotel providing better accommodations and service.

Mr. Hagopian suggested that we approach the Prelate about a person from our Diocese, retired, in order that no expenses will be involved, to take care of the promotion movement of our organization. The present situation among Armenians of our Community is very bad. It could be that by the help of such a person we could bring again many people interested in our projects.

Messrs. Hagopian and Bardoony gave their report of their effort to obtain from Mr. Sam Harrison his acceptance of the position of Godfather of the Church. Mr. Harrison said he would consider that the impression he left was that he would not make a large donation. The following decisions were taken regarding the forthcoming ceremonies. Check if an auction sale during the Buffet Dinner would be advisable. Mr. Bardoony is to provide with a few items in that respect. The cost of the food to be prepared by the Ladies will be reimbursed. We will rent an additional 100 chairs through the Firm Rosenbloom on West Gray, this Firm known to Mr. Bardoony who will make reservations. The cleaning of the Church thoroughly a few days before the consecration. We are also to approach a suitable person who might take a color movie on voluntary basis all expenses to be paid.

Before adjourning the Council decided to invite all new comers to the Church Bldg the following Thursday in order to stimulate among these people their interest in our projects. All members promised to make their best to attend. The Ladies are to served refreshments.

G. Hekkimian

Minutes of Special meeting of October 23, 1966

In view of the forthcoming events concerning the visit of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Torcom Manoogian and the consecration of the Chapel this meeting consisted of a general one to which we were invited the Parish Council, Building Committee and the Ladies Guild. Were present Messrs. Saxenian, Hagopian, Sanjakian, Kirksharian and Mrs. Hagopian, Sanjakian, Anahid Harrison, Was also present as a guest Mr. Leon Harrison.

Letter from the Primate dated October the 4th was read in which we were being advised of the forthcoming visit of Bishop Manoogian and some arrangements he was suggesting.

To comply with the Primate's visit it was decided to look for a suitable hall to rent for that occasion where we could hold our banquet. This should be near to the Church Bldg for more conveniency. The consecration of the Chapel and the subsequent ceremony could be held in the Church provided that everything was made ready for that day, that is Sunday November the 27th.

The details concerning the menu of the banquet was decided and this will consist of armenian specialties although there were some suggestions that we buy the food from a catering service in case we could not prepare that part ourselves. The menu, therefore, which will be prepared by the help of the ladies of our community will consist of "kofta", "sarma", "pilaff", beans, cakes and refreshments. The price to be charged for the dinner was decided \$ 4.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children, age 6 to 12. It is hoped that the turn out for this event will be approx. 200 people. We will need about 100 more chairs in addition to what we already have. These could be rented for the occasion.

In discussing the attendance that could be expected, it was again remarked that probably many Armenians that do not belong to the Armenian Church would refuse to attend and could turn down our invitations. This was something we have to recognize since we have not been able to satisfy the aspirations of this group of people. This has also influenced very badly our income and up to now there is approximately a sum of \$ 450.00 in arrears from pledges from these people that have been suspended.

Although many of this group are to be blamed for their past unwise attitude, as recorded in our minutes, members of our own group as explained by the Chairman are also to be blamed for not having at the time the foresight and tactfulness that would have prevented the present situation which is complete disunity among Armenians.

This was also against the original instructions of Archbishop Sion for a Community Center and the Chapel. Therefore the Chairman is of the opinion that the responsible are Messrs. Bardony & Sanjakian and Mrs. Sanjakian and consequently they should take care of question of raising funds for the monthly installments. At least they should pay for the difference. Mrs. Sanjakian offered to take care with Mr. Bardony of the deficit that is at the moment \$ 100.00 per month.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Bldg Committee suggested to make alterations in the rear building in order to make place for a future Center or Hall. It was agreed to go along with the project if funds were obtainable. The meeting was adjourned.

J. Kirksharian

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of June 3, 1966

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
111 LORING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022

All members of the Parish Council were present at this meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Our financial situation and bank accounts were discussed and it was found that the balances of our accounts were very low at this moment. Our income had suffered by delinquent accounts and also because we had not been able to organize any fund raising activity in the meantime.

As regards our delinquent accounts it was again suggested that we delegate authority to Mr. Bedevian, in case ~~if~~ he would accept, in order that he could approach certain members and remind them of their arrears.

A proposal was also made for the organization of a pic nic party with the cooperation of the Ladies Auxiliary as soon as these Ladies could make the arrangements.

The question of the cutting of the grass of the property was finally arranged. We had final offer of \$ 200.00 to Mr. Sweet and this had been accepted. Already the Council members noted with pleasure that the tractor had been used and all the grass cut in a neat way. This had necessitated the hiring of some help to operate the tractor, this first time the grass being quite high, and the expenses for this had been taken care of by the Building Committee as well as some other miscellaneous expenses. To express our appreciation to Mr. Sweet for his acceptance, we will send letter of thanks also explaining that the amount of the sale will be settled by installments. Letter of thanks should be also sent to other people, like Geo Valian, who are contributing by making different gifts.

The Chairman read letter of Father Arakelian advising us about the consecration of the Church and the date offered which is November 6. Also in this letter the Father had mentioned a list of items that will be needed for the dedication of the Church and afterwards. The Chairman is, therefore, going to answer to this letter accepting the proposed date and at the same time ask about a price list of the Church items in order that members of our community could contribute to that effect.

As regard the dedication of the Church and also because Father Arakelian was specific about the godfather custom and procedure that would bring some sort of contribution to the Church, a committee was formed by Messrs. Hagepian and Bardeony. These members of the Council will find the right time and approach to Mr. Sam Harrison and try to persuade him on the usual contribution expected in a case comprising the name to be given the Church. This will be St. George in memory of his father. It is hoped that some good results will be achieved but without imposing too forcibly on Mr. Sam Harrison.

The name of St George would serve also other useful purpose that is a name for our Church that would differentiate and identify our Houston Parish from the New York Diocese. This will be in compliance with the request of the Internal Revenue Service to introduce amendments to our articles of incorporation in order to avoid any confusion between Armenian Church of America, New York and Armenian Church of America as per our Charter.

As regard the formation of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Parish Council approves the procedure that took place on that occasion as per letter of the Ladies Auxiliary had addressed to the Chairman of the Parish Council explaining that procedure and the election of the executive officers.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Kirsharian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of May 5, 1966.

Were present at the said meeting all members of Parish Council except Mr. Azadian who had excused himself. The delinquent accounts were examined and it was proposed that we could find a way more effective than sending mail reminders to people who were not paying their pledges. The chairman proposed that may be he could persuade Mr. Jacques Bedevian to make personal contacts in that effect. The total amount of the said delinquent accounts amount so far to approx. \$ 300.00. Mr. Bardony explained that due to his illness and also his being busy he had not found time to take care of the assignments concerning the parties that were to be given in the Church Bldg as welcoming committee and also as fund raising activities. The cutting of the grass was discussed and it was suggested by the Chairman that this matter would represent annually a lump sum of \$ 150.00 and for that reason it would be perhaps better if we could buy the existing tractor of Mr Sweet but with a reasonable price. A maximum of \$ 150.00 was suggested as our offer. Mr. Sanjakian was given the authority to contact Mr. Sweet and make arrangements to the best of our interests, and report to the Parish Council.

The situation of our different projects was discussed after the withdrawal of the support of the all the armenian community after some very unhappy decisions and differences of opinion. The important factor, it was forgotten all this time, was to draw closer every member of the community and unfortunately the opposite took place. We should show more leniency and liberalism in our reports with every one concerned in order to succeed in bringing everybody interested again in our projects and let them forget about the differences of the past.

We should find a way of having people interested right away with our Church and Center. Many months and almost years have gone by without initiating some permanent forms of activities. Now that the dedication of the Church has been postponed for several months, we should at least begin in the meantime by having special gatherings at least on Saturday evenings and Sunday noons and afternoons, in order that every people could come and enjoy our facilities.

The chairman announces that he had been approached by Mrs. Rose Sanjakian about the formation of the Ladies Auxilary. We all think that this group will be very useful for every kind of support for our organization. The council agreed that the formation of this group should be encouraged the soonest possible and that above all it should be formed according to the By Laws of our Church. The chairman accepted to be present at a meeting that some candidates of Ladies Auxilary were to hold at Mrs. Hagopian's residence the following Saturday and plan the right procedure to adopt for that occasion as regards the nomination of the executive officers. As soon as we had the Auxilary formed we should immediately plan some fund raising activities as dinner parties and others.

The meeting was adjourned until next month or earlier if the circumstances would demand.

J. Kerksharian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of April 7, 1966

Were present at the meeting all members of the Parish Council.

Mr. Jacques Bedevian was also invited to attend this meeting and gave at this occasion a full report of the progress of the Choir committee. Several of the meetings of the said committee were already held and minutes of their activities were submitted to the Parish Council as per copies of these minutes that were handed over. The Parish Council appreciated the efforts of Mr. Bedevian as well as all the members of the choir and expressed the wish that we will have in our community very shortly a group to be proud of and which at the same time will try to level off any difference of opinion among its members. Per example more choir practice and less emphasis on detailed routine matters. The proposal of the acquisition of an organ for the choir was suggested but did not meet with a warm response for the time being.

The proposal of cultural activities was received with much approval and appreciation also because this program is largely encouraged and practiced in every other church community in the nation and was also recommended by the Primate during his last visit. The Archbishop had suggested that these activities which will comprise musical, theatrical and other festivities be held afterwards when we will be in position and after the blessing of the church.

The chairman asked from every committee chairman that a complete record of their activities be handed to the Parish Council in the form of a copy of their minutes of meeting. Mr. Bardony who had a copy of minutes of the last meeting of the Bldg Committee hand it over to the secretary who read it for the benefit of the Parish Council members.

The delinquent accounts will be again examined in our next meeting due to the fact that our funds are diminishing without too many contributions.

Mr. Bardony upon the request of the Chairman accepted to head our welcoming committee whose task will be to honor and invite new comers in our community by special events. Mr. Bardony was given authority to approach members of his choice for the formation of his welcoming committee. Mr. Bardony advised that he was already planning in having such an affair for the first Sunday after Easter.

In our next meeting we will have also to decide about the publication of our monthly pamphlet, this being an important factor in our contacts with the armenian community as whole.

The chairman announced that we had to make an important decision concerning the forthcoming ceremonies for the blessing of the Church. He had already received two letters in that effect from New York urging that the ceremonies be held during the week end of May 28. All members present decided after much deliberation that in the best interest of this whole affair we had better postpone this until the later part of September. We were unfortunately not prepared to make this and not ready yet. The chairman accepted to either write or make telephone call in that effect.

J. Kerkharian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of March 3, 1966

Y

Were present at this meeting all members of the Parish Council.

The minutes of the previous meeting of February 12 were read. According to the wish of the Primate these minutes had been sent to him for his approval and it was the copy bearing his signature that was read. The Primate had suggested that this document be kept for any reference in the future as regards any misunderstanding.

The formation of the Ladies Auxiliary is being slightly delayed due to the fact that we have not received yet the By Laws of these Auxiliary and also because Father Levon has advised that these are in the mail with other documents. As soon as these will be in hand we will have to take necessary decisions for the organization of the Ladies Auxiliary in order to use our Ladies efforts for the common purpose.

The chairman explained that he attended together with Mr. Hakonian the previous night a meeting of the H.A.W.A. He had explained to them what had been the resolutions of our meeting with the Primate. These ladies had been disappointed with the decisions. They had said that they had always volunteered to help and had thought that in that respect their offer could have been accepted.

As regard their contribution and use of the Church facilities the following motion was put to vote. The H.A.W.A. are allowed to use the community center for their monthly meetings for an undetermined period of time during which time the Parish Council will consider their donations received for that effect. This motion was accepted by 6 votes against one or rather an abstention of Mr. Sanjakian.

Furthermore, the chairman having been asked that our decision be known to them by letter, the secretary was asked to write to them. All members approved the contents of the proposed letter which should be as follows. It should mention the above decision, their meetings should be non political and non religious, according to the By Laws of the Church, no drinking nor gambling, the Parish Council should be notified in advance in order to open up the place for their monthly meetings, a reasonable time if it is for a special gathering to avoid any interference with several religious feasts of the Church, they could use the name of the Church only if all proceeds of the planned activity are for the Church treasury, a reasonable rental or donation will be perceived if the proceeds go their group but in that case no name of the Church should be mentioned.

Furthermore in subsequent discussion it was agreed that only members of the Church should be allowed to carry keys of the Bldg. Specially the Council members should go and open the place and not any other person, this to avoid any friction.

J. Kereshanian

(to be continued)

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 5/5/66 (continued)

The chairman advised that Mr. Jack Bedevian had asked to organize the church choir and that he also had requested that an approval be mailed to him in the form of a letter. It was decided to go along with that request specially that we shall be needing very shortly such a group in the forthcoming blessing of the Church by the Arachnort. Mr. Bedevian could use the Church together with members of the choir and as regard the selection of the said choir he would be allowed to choose such persons as he sees fit and regardless of denominations.

The secretary suggested and this was approved that we should form a welcoming committee whose task will be to organize in the Church Bldg special receptions in honor of newcomers in our community. This would help all newcomers to get acquainted with other present members of the community and apart from the feeling of friendliness conveyed on them, they could keep thus in touch with the Armenian Church and Armenian Community as a whole.

Letter or circular concerning the donations and pledges we are receiving as regards our expression of thankfulness should be prepared the soonest possible. We are already quite delayed in that respect, both for the Parish Account as well as the Bldg Account.

We should also begin to collect the Church yearly dues that are, apart from all other pledges, for the amount of \$ 11.00, as a minimum only, as mentioned by the Primate in his last visit.

The Bldg Committee should always propose to the Parish Council any new project in the alteration program. As regard the new alteration of the kitchen section which amount to approx. \$ 100.00 the Bldg Committee could go along. Nevertheless we should get also an estimate for the complete removal of the kitchen itself toward the utility room, thus to avoid if charges are not too expensive the \$ 100.00 expense which will not be needed.

Our financial situation is very low at the moment and we should send reminders to all delinquent accounts. Also a fund raising affair was planned. As suggested by Mr. Bardony an auction sale to be arranged sometime in April. This being before the proposed official visit of the Arachnort and due to lack of time, we decided to have this affair at the same time, that is during the visit of the Primate. We could decide very probably the week end of May the 8th for that purpose. Instead of having a Church Service somewhere else, we could preferably had that in our Bldg which will be consecrated already and as for the banquet it would be wise to rent a suitable place to accommodate all the persons, a huge crowd it is hoped. The Parish Council designated a committee formed by Messrs. Bardony and Kirkyasharian to make all efforts for this purpose, and give all recommendations to the Parish Council.

The meeting was adjourned and it was suggested that we either hold another meeting (special) or communicate among ourselves for any urgent measure, this due to the forthcoming activities.

G. Kirkyasharian

PARISH COUNCIL

Armenian Church of Houston

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

I

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBR. 12, 1966

This meeting was held on the occasion of the presence of His Grace Archbishop Sion Mancockian who had come for a short visit to be acquainted with the progress and situation of the armenian community in Houston, Texas.

The Parish Council in Houston as well as several members of our community deeply appreciated this occasion and expressed their thankfulness to His Grace.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Serpazan Hayre. Were present at the said meeting under the presidency of Serpazan Hayre, Father Levon Arakelian who had accompanied the Primate from New York, the Chairman of the Parish Council Mr. Stephen Saxenian, and all other members of the Council except Mr. Hekimian who was out of town.

Serpazan Hayre congratulated the Armenian Community in Houston for the very good efforts, making possible the establishment of the first Armenian Church, with the help of Father Levon. Serpazan expressed the wish that he will be able in the near future to come to Houston again, officially this time, for the blessing and consecration of our Church. He also announced that the following day there will be a St Vartanantz Church service and ceremony at 2.00 P.M.

The floor was given to Father Levon who praised every member of the Parish Council for their efforts. He said he was looking forward for the day when we shall bless our Church, thus reaching our goal.

An appropriate date which will be convenient for Serpazan Hayre was suggested as first part of the month of May.

Mr. Saxenian announced his resignation in confirmation of the previous letter to that effect he had sent to the N.Y. Diocese. He complained about the continuous obstruction he was encountering by Mr. Bardony and Mr. Sanjakian. Somebody else should be given the chance of assuming the responsibilities for the ultimate success of our projects. Nevertheless he pledged his support to the Church regardless of his resignation.

Serpazan Hayre said he was studying the case and had not taken any decision about accepting this resignation and that he would ask Mr. Saxenian to reconsider this question bearing in mind that he would not like to force on any one any decision. It is Serpazan Hayre's wish that Mr. Saxenian withdraws his resignation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hagopian, Azadian, Kirkyasharian and Bardony. (Mr. Mike Sanjakian was absent at that moment, having left for his job).

Serpazan Hayre had inquired about our financial situation. Due to the absence of the secretary, Mr. Kirkyasharian, who joined the meeting when in progress, no definite figures were available. Serpazan recommended that we do our best to pay off the mortgage in 10 years. We should organize a new system, more effective, to raise funds by membership dues and pledges.

(continued)

J. Kirksharwin

PARISH COUNCIL

Armenian Church of Houston

II

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

(Minutes Parish Council meeting Febr. 12, 1966 - continued)

Mr. Hagopian was thanked for his good work in our pledge campaign. Differences of opinion were discussed about the direction to be given to the general management of our organization. There was without doubt a misinterpretation of our rules and regulations that should be avoided on the future. Serpazan Hayre recommended that we go along the By-Laws. Any deviation from these rules could be, as at present, lead to misunderstandings. We could if necessary deviate very slightly but under no circumstances on major issues. In the case of our elections, for instance, no changes should have been made. It was due to the protest received by the Arachnortaran, that the Primate had come to investigate and find a solution if possible, to our problem. Serpazan Hayre said that these elections were premature and should be considered void due to their illegality. The whole procedure should be stopped until such time as the Primate sees suitable for elections. In the meantime we could continue as before to take care of our duties. Only persons baptized in the Armenian Church, as per our Church By-Laws, have the right to participate in these elections either by casting their vote or being elected. The Primate reserves the right to nominate any person that he sees capable of helping the Church after having him recommended to the attention of our community. The Primate explained that the circular containing instructions to carry out elections was sent to us by mistake and that he was not aware of this.

It has been the wish of His Grace that the name to be given to our organization be "Armenian Church and Community Center". This should be the final saying on this question in the best interests of the Church and this message, incidentally, was conveyed to the Parish Council in his letter of June 1964 nominating the members of the present Parish Council. Mr. Bardony having raised an objection, it was explained to him that by community center it is meant that the center belongs to the Church and not to any other group of persons and that, furthermore, it is under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council and ultimately the New York Diocese. We could, later on, when alterations and suitable constructions are built, name it cultural center. For the time being, clergymen of other denominations would be welcome as guests only and should not, specially, be allowed to religious propoganda.

As regard the use of the Church facilities or community center, these could be used also by "secular" groups as the Houston Armenian Womens Association for instance, but not the Chapel and always under the provisions of the By-Laws and rules and regulations. Serpazan Hayre explained that officially no alcoholic beverages and gambling are allowed. These secular groups could rent our halls according to prices to be fixed by the Parish Council. As regard the H.A.W.A. in particular, we could allow the use of the Church Bldg. for their monthly meetings provided reasonable ^{costs} ~~rental~~ fees are paid. They could rent also when organizing a public gathering and if the total proceeds are not for the Church, the name of the Armenian Church should not be used nor mentioned in order to make it clear to the general public

S. Kerkshorian

111

(Minutes Parish Council meeting Febr. 12, 1966 - continued)

that the proceeds are for their own group. On the other hand the name of the Church should be mentioned only when proceeds go directly to the Church. The Parish Council should decide on the best profitable way for the Church treasury.

Serpasan Hayre recommended that we start immediately organizing our Ladies Auxiliary of the Armenian Church which is customary with any other Church also and in our case has proved very helpful in every other Armenian Church community in the nation. These ladies should be either baptised, or be the wives of Armenians, also baptised in the Armenian Church. We should get from the N.Y. Diocese the By-Laws specially designed for the Auxiliaries and Father Arakelian promised to mail this to us the soonest possible. Further recommendations of Serpasan Hayre have been to organize a Chapter of A.C.Y.O.A., a Sunday Parochial school, a Cultural Center.

To sum up these resolutions and instructions His Grace emphasized againon the following:

- A - No truly Armenian Center can exist and prosper without the moral and spiritual support of the Church. Therefore the right name to choose for our organization should be "Armenian Church and Community Center."
- B - The elections are premature, not according to the By-Laws, and are postponed for a suitable date in the future.
- C - Only persons baptised in the Armenian Church, or wives of Armenians baptised in the Armenian Church, have the right to vote or be elected, this in regard to any Church body.
- D - Formation of the Ladies Auxiliary.
- E - Formation of the A.C.Y.O.A., Sunday School and Cultural Activity Center.

The members of the Parish Council present deeply appreciated the time given by the Archbishop and promised to go along as much as they could according to his directives.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Serpasan Hayre.

G. Kirksharain

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of
February 3, 1966.

Were present at this regular meeting all members except Mr. Stephen Saxenian and H. Azadian.

The secretary read a letter addressed to the Archbishop by the Chairman, Mr. Stephen Saxenian. In this letter Mr. Saxenian was presenting his resignation due to numerous complaints about some members of the community.

In view of the differences of opinion that keep growing even stronger, it was suggested that a new Parish Council could be formed. This would be most appropriate considering the forthcoming visit to Houston of the Primate who will be also accompanied in his trip by Father Levon. No final decision was reached on this subject.

The secretary suggested that all members resign together and let the Primate form a new Council, thus giving the occasion to those who would like to follow suit in regard the resignation of the Chairman to do so. The secretary said he was ready to resign but no other member present followed the example.

A fierce discussion erupted between Mr. Sanjakian and Mr. Hekimian about the legality of some of our decisions and the attitude of some people towards the Church and respect due to the Church.

No definite resolution, nor decision could be taken due to the fact that the members were confronted with 2 major events: the forthcoming visit of the Primate and the resignation of the Chairman. All matters of importance were accordingly left until the arrival of the Primate.

It was noted in the meantime that the Bldg Committee had also altered the bath structure of the bldg without some of the members of the Parish Council knowing about it.

The meeting was adjourned with the hope that the Primate will be able to find a solution to our difficulties.

G. Kirkshorian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of January 6, 1966.

**ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1210 BERING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022**

Were present all members of the Parish Council except Mr. Azadian.

Mr. Sam Harrison was also present, as honorary chairman, and had expressed the wish to learn about our progress with the task that had been assigned to the Parish Council. He had learned about some difficulties and difference of opinion about Parish Council members and he had taken the opportunity to express his views and at the same time to try and see about the possibility of having all members work in unison. In his opinion the donation he has made was primarily for the Armenian Church but at the same time also he had been interested in the project of having a gathering place for all armenians regardless of denominations. He was certain that we could have such gatherings or parties that would not interfere with the dignity and reputation of the place.

It was learned that Father Arakelian had written about the Diocese's advice on the following. The name to be given to the Church, that is St George, had been approved by the Archbishop and also that an alter had been already shipped by New York for the use of our Chapel.

The use of the Church Bldg facilities was again discussed in regards to considering these as only a Church or at the same time a Church and an Armenian Center. It was agreed that there would be nothing wrong in having such gatherings that the one we just had for the benefit of the Bldg committee on the occasion of the New Year.

It was learned that the last above mentioned event was very successful and had brought a profit of about \$ 735.00 and that the amount was handed over to the treasurer of the Bldg Committee to be deposited at the Bank.

The chairman advised the Council that according to instructions from the New York Diocese, we should have elections for the reelection or election of the Parish Council. It was agreed that these elections, beginning with the preliminary, that comprises the nominating committee, should be held the soonest possible.

As regards the alterations in the building, for the Chapel, these have been taken care of and almost completed on the basis of our previous resolutions. The expenses for this part of the job have reached the amount of \$ 560.00, more than what we had first anticipated. Nevertheless considering the usefulness of this plan we are also interested in having additional alterations in order to increase some area. Consequently the Building Committee was asked to get again some estimates in order that we could study about the possibility.

The meeting was adjourned until our next regular meeting.

J. Kirkshanian

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH CENTER
1111 BERING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of December 2, 1965
(continued)

to pay personally, as a try, for a period of 6 months for the above monthly payments to cover for the difference. He also offered to buy some portable chairs for the Church building and for all new forms we might need.

As a fund raising project, the Parish Council agreed in having a Buffet held on January 2, 1966 at 1.00 P.M. At the same time all efforts for the success of the raffle which comprise a persian rug, this offered by Mr Bardoony, and two other secondary prizes, should be made for its success. The price of each ticket will be \$ 1.00 or 12 tickets for \$ 10.00. The winning prizes will be drawn that same day.

The formation of the auxillary committee for women of the Church was again discussed but without any final decision. The chairman *had* suggested the formation of different groups of Ladies Auxillary who should be assigned various and different work.

The meeting was adjourned until our next regular meeting or an earlier one if the circumstances would demand.

J. Kerdshanian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of December 2, 1965
at the Church Bldg.

Were present at the meeting all members of the Parish Council except Mr. H. Azadian.

in view of the fact that all members of the Council do not attend regularly, it was suggested that new members be sought to occupy jointly these positions in order to increase the number of the members. The names suggested are Dr. Ed. Tasian, Jack Bedevian, Mantchulian, Vartan Kosharian, Edward Novas and Cerovpe Berberian. For the time being, Kosharian and Berberian will not be approached giving thus a first chance to the others.

Delinquent accounts are detrimental to our fund raising and subsequently, Mr. Hagopian is going to approach all those who are late in their monthly payments as per list he was handed over. Mr. Baroony on behalf of the Building Committee gave a report on their resolutions that were accepted. The wall partition between the 2 west side rooms will be taken down and also the entrance to these two rooms will be enlarged in order to obtain more space for the Chapel. These alterations should not be too expensive and the Building Committee will get estimates before proceeding with the work.

The N.Y. Diocese having not answered yet to the letter of the Chairman in reference to the naming of the Church and also about the final forms, a reminder will be mailed again immediately. Referring to the turbulent meeting that the Parish Council had with members of the Houston Armenian Womens Assoc. no definite resolution was taken at the time and a final decision was postponed. At the said meeting the request of the H.A.W.A. was again accepted, that is that they could use the Church Bldg facilities but under the rules and regulations of the Armenian Church. A letter (circular) from Archbishop Sion Manogian was read explaining the use of Church Halls. The part referring to the prohibition of alcoholic beverages, card games and gambling brought protest from the H.A.W.A. who would rather have these restrictions lifted, this according to their opinion would help fund raising activities. The difficulty of the situation was again explained due to the fact that we owe allegiance to the Church.

At this present meeting, discussing further on the same subject the Parish Council did not reach any agreement. Nevertheless the H.A.W.A. could use the Bldg facilities according to the By Laws. As regard the monthly meetings of the H.A.W.A. these could be allowed in case rental fees are received. On the subject of the fees, if these should be paid or not, a vote among Parish Council members was taken. The result was not decisive, 3 having voted in favor and 3 against.

The H.A.W.A. members total contribution per month being approx. \$ 50.00, we should find a way of not alienating this group, since also this building, as reported many times previously belongs to all Armenians. In case these ladies would not care about the Church By Laws and would stop their contributions, Mr. Baroony offered

J. Kerkerian

of the community. Mr. Saxenian would give his assistance in inviting through Mrs. Cameron some of their members for their participation.

The secretary disclosed that he has been approached by the Armenian Houston Ladies Org. to take the Parish Council's approval on party their are planning for New Years Eve day at the Church Bldg. The ladies would organize this as special event for the benefit of their treasury and are willing to pay some contribution or rental fees for the use of the facilities. Also the secretary was asked another question that was formulated by a lady of the same group and that is what is to happen to anyone's pledge or contribution in case the whole project does not succeed.

After discussing these two points the Parish Council took the following resolutions and the secretary was asked to forward these to the Ladies group.

The Ladies are welcome to have the Church Bldg for their event under these restrictions. Due to the earlier event planned by the Parish Council, the facilities could be available only after 8.30 P.M. that day. Also due to a circular received from the New York Diocese several months back, no gambling nor serving or alcoholic beverages are to be allowed. As for the second question about the pledge, the Parish Council would accept any precedent on the same matter by any other denomination or charitable institution in Houston Texas and to whom some of the Ladies would probably belong. By the same token it was suggested and agreed that the Ladies could have their monthly meetings in the Church Bldg provided that they follow the instructions, rules and regulations set by the Parish Council.

The secretary brought up the request presented to him by Mrs. Rose Sanjakian about some expenses she has made during the Church Banquet in February of this year. The amount was for \$ 42.00 approx. but was brought to \$ 35.00 as a round figure. These expenses were food comprising, vegetables, bread, soft drinks etc. This request surprised the Parish Council as it was earlier said that the food was being donated. Mr. Sanjakian said that probably this was being asked now because some other people who have promised to donate had been reimbursed afterwards. At this late hour, according to the chairman he rather pay this amount from his own pocket rather than burden our treasury and accordingly he put down the amount requested to be handed over. Mr. Sanjakian said that this was probably because Mrs. Rose was hurt that her efforts were not appreciated that as a protest she would get the money to turn over to the Bldg fund of the Church. Mr. Sanjakian did not take the money which was being offered and under the pressure of other members present, Mr. Saxenian accepted finally to accept back the said sum.

The parish discussed also the question of the forthcoming elections for the reelection of the Parish Council. Also it was suggested that we name new members to help us with the affairs of the parish. Since we are not well organized in that respect it was decided to postpone this question for later on when will be in a position to carry out our obligations and follow the rules and regulations of our Church as explained in the By. Laws.

To sum up the decisions of this meeting, it was decidedly approved by all members to the wording of St. George Armenian Church and separately Community Center both for our forms and for the use of the armenian community in Texas.

J. Kardsharian

necessary financial means all by themselves. If their answer would be affirmative the Parish Council would accept then their point of view. The above named two members having not given an affirmative answer it was agreed to proceed then as planned without any change. It was, nevertheless, again emphasized ^{that} the rights and laws of the Armenian Church would be always preserved and that all members would do their utmost in that respect.

The Parish Council next subject was the name to be given to the Church. It was agreed that out of consideration to the help given originally by Mr. Sam Harrison we would select the name of St George, this being the name of Mr. Harrison's deceased father. We could then print new forms and letterheads and pledge cards mentioning this name under the following arrangements: St. George Armenian Church and Community Center, Under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in North America, 630 Second Ave, N.Y. N.Y. We would have yet to have this approved by the Arashnortaran that is the nomination of the Church and the secretary was requested to write to New York in that effect. In order to separate the two buildings that is the Church and Center, it was agreed to have with these arrangements a separate entrance to the Church and another one for the Center. This would be more convenient and it would not bring any misunderstandings as to ^{the} purpose of our efforts. At the same time we should know for sure about the name of our Church as regards ~~with~~ any other armenian church and in order to avoid any confusion. Mr. Bardony on behalf of the Building subcommittee gave his report about their findings and projects. The parish council agreed in the proposed plan of taking down the partition between the two bedrooms in order to gain considerable place to have room for the Chapel. This would be the most economical way for the time being. The cost of these alterations, it is hoped, would not be too high. Mr. Bardony would call members influential in his committee to discuss this matter and have diagrams ready to be submitted to remodeling people and firms in order to obtain several bids. As regard the alter which is going to be built on the east side we would like to submit the diagram and the ultimate lay out should be sent for approval to the Arashnortaran in New York.

The question of the formation of the Ladies Auxiliaries was again discussed. It was decided to postpone this for the time being as this question could arise some misinterpretation by many people and would create an antagonism to our project that we need to avoid. The Parish Council should be the only body on behalf of the Church to form any committee or subcommittee and the persons duly appointed should work under the name of the Parish Council only and not for example under the name of Bldg committee. To the rest of the community this would mean that the body or committee thus formed has the unanimous approval of the highest body of the Church in Houston Texas, that is the Parish Council. The main purpose of this decision is that the council does not want to hurt the feelings of any person or group of persons that for a reason or other could by antagonizing us by their influence on other people. The parish council therefore is to organize under the leadership of Mr. Bardony, who it was learned, had planned in having a New Year's afternnon party in the Church Bldg. Mr. Bardony was given authority on behalf of the Parish Council to organize this event. He would have to select auxiliaries who would help him to carry out success- fully this project. He would in due time approach also all ladies

J. Kershaw

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of November 4, 1965
at 1111 Bering Drive, Houston Texas.

Were present at the meeting all members except Mr. Hekimian who had excused himself earlier due to some job he had to attend in Dallas and also Mr. Azadian.

Immediately after the reading of the minutes of the last meeting a discussion erupted again on the decisions taken about the naming of property under Armenian Church and Community Center. Two members, Mr. Bardony and Mr. Sanjakian, opposed the adjunction of the wording Community Center. This according to their opinion was not correct and not in accordance with the N.Y. Diocese instructions. The chairman explained that whatever resolutions the Parish Council has taken so far has not deviated from loyalty and acceptance of the instructions of the Archbishop. On the contrary, as for instance, for the change of wording of our pledge cards and receipts after it was learned that this change to the originals instructions given to the Parish by Father Arakelian was the making of Mr. Bardony, the Parish Council at its preceding meeting had adopted their final resolutions of keeping the wording Community Center. This resolution was officially registered in the minutes of the meeting and also because Father Arakelian had asked in his letter that we communicate our decisions to him, the chairman was asked to write lengthily on this matter. As a matter of fact a letter was sent to Father Arakelian explaining with every details the situation about this seemingly unimportant matter but which in reality is heavy with future consequences. This question is related very closely with the raising of the funds. The great majority of the contributions come from people who are interested to the "center" and any change at this time would curtail this source of income. Anyway, since the final decision on this subject was taken unanimously at the preceding meeting by all members present, this is to be considered the final saying on this. Mr. Bardony expressed the wish together with Mr. Sanjakian that we keep the name of the Church only in order that our church do not become the visiting place of every "common people". The parish Council's main objective, it was agreed upon, is to ascertain and make sure that every due respect and dignity be displayed when using the facilities of the church and church property. In that respect we have to be cautious and take care that whatever person or group of persons who may use the church building and its facilities follow our instructions. We will have to establish some rules and regulations according to the By Laws and instructions of the N.Y. Diocese and make sure that these are not transgressed under any circumstance. The chairman brought up the subject of the raising of the funds which is to come first on every other matter. This is to be remembered by every member and petty discussion on matters that have been already decided upon should be avoided. We are losing considerable time again and again arguing on the same thing and we have also other questions to consider. Mr. Bardony declares that he cannot proceed with collecting pledges unless changes are made to the wording. This being the point of view of also Mr. Sanjakian, the rest of the members present asked them if by discarding the name Community Center and by doing so alienating an important faction of our community with the ultimate goal of having only a Church, if they, Mr. Bardony and Mr. Sanjakian, accept to assume all responsibilities by finding the

J. Kerkerian

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1111 BERING DR.
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Minutes Parish Council meeting September 2, 1965
(continued)

and Armenian Community Center project. This wording was suggested by Father Arakelian as were all the others in receipt forms : The above wording for the pledge cards and receipts with the Mention also Armenian Church of Houston. ~~Letterheads~~ and envelopes have the mention Armenian Church only. The discussion centered on the definition of the word community. According to Mr. Barboony this would mean that the pledge and accordingly the organization would belong to everybody. This not being the opinion of all members, (change of form) nevertheless, it was agreed that me Barboony would talk to Father Arakelian and ask him about his advice.

Zoum Girkyshanian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Thursday
October 7, 1965 at 5869 Westheimer, Houston Texas

Were present five members of Council. It was learned indirectly that Mr. Mike Sanjakian was out of town on vacation. Mr. Barboony had informed that he could not come because he had to go to the Opera.

The chairman read letter from Father Arakelian about changes of pledge cards and receipts and eventual visit of his grace the Archbishop in regard with the property and pledge campaign. After studying thoroughly these proposals, the Council decides that at this late date and after the printing and use of these forms that are already in circulation, it would be a bad policy to make any change. This could be interpreted very differently by many people. On the other hand Serpazan Hayre's visit at this time would be too premature, no convenient facilities existing yet in the newly acquired property. For the above given reasons, the chairman was asked to write, lengthly with other points of interest raised in the discussion of these matters, to Father Arakelian, expressing these view points and resolutions.

The Council was informed that the Houston Armenian Womens Assoc. had expressed the wish to held their annual picnic in the grounds of the property. The ladies were offering their services to help this gathering be a success and they had decided that all profits would be in favor of the Armenian Church. The Parish Council accepted this proposal very warmly and expressed appreciation to the Houston Armenian Womens Assoc. This would at the same time a good occasion to impress people who would be present about the purpose and plan of our organization with the ultimate thought that contributions and pledges would be easier to obtain.

It was learned that the ladies individually would offer the food to be served that day. Each lady would bring a cake and apart from that Mrs. Najarian, Berberian, Ziemann, Hovsepian, Hagopian and Kirkyasharian would offer sarmas, pilaff, salad & beans etc. As for the lamb meat itself for the shish kebab, this would be bought from funds from the ladies treasury and reimbursed afterwards from the proceeds.

A meeting with officers of the ladies organization was decided in order to decide about every minute detail of the shish kebab dinner.

On the same occasion some members of the Parish Council offered also their contributions to the same purpose. Mr. Saxenian would take care of the cutting of the grass of the property which has been left to grow above proportion, Mr. Hagopian will supply charcoal, Mr. Hekimian the soft drinks and also a sign of our Church, Mr. Azadian all the ice necessary. The meeting was adjourned members of the Council pledging all possible effort for the success of the Shish Kebab dinner to be held October, 24, 1965.

Jawan Berberian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting June 17, 1965

Members of the Parish Council present at the meeting at 5869 Westheimer, except Hekimian and Azadian who had excused themselves the first advising us that he was sick and the second that he would be out of town on a trip to New York.

The following Bldg Committee members were also present:

Mrs. Sanjakian, Mrs. Hagopian, Mr. Nedevidian.

As regard the pledge campaign it was found the total amounts pledged so far have reached about \$ 80.00 per month.

Only a few persons have been contacted yet and also some members have not given results of their assignments.

Decision was reached about the name of our Organization which is to be: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Texas Affiliation, 1111 Bering Drive, Houston Texas 77027. This was decided in response to numerous questions asked by community members about some differentiation between raising of the funds for either Texas or New York.

Mr. Bardony offered to take care of the printing of our new pledge cards of which an order of 250 will be given top priority in order that these cards could be used in our presently progressing pledge campaign.

The owner of the property having offered \$ 750.00 for the ~~it~~ mentioned previously, it was decided that a party consisting of Mr. Saxenian, Mr. Bardony and Mrs. Sanjakian would pay a visit to him in that respect offering \$ 600.00.

Mr. Bardony communicated the last list of names of the Bldg Committee and these are; Chairman: Hrant Bardony, Vice Chairman: Rose Sanjakian, Advisors: Emma Hagopian, G. Bedevian, L. Gregory, Ed. Hovas, S. Saxenian.

It was decided that letters of thanks be sent to those who have made pledges and mentioning at the same time the amount of the pledge.

As regards the letterheads, we have now complete list of names of the Bldg Committee and we are writing to the New York Diocese for the seal and armenian lettering. This letter will ask also about suitable name for our future church. St. George has been suggested.

The chairman read letter addressed to him by the Rt. Rev. Archbishop about their concern for the restrictions and general provisions of the deed of the purchased property. The chairman explained that he is taking care of these questions and will soon have favorable decision taken in that matter. The location of the property although mentioned as restricted area can be used for church purposes and this goal can be attained through a "friendly suit" as it has already been done before in the same neighborhood. The meeting is adjourned for the coming first Thursday of July, that is July 1, 1965.

Zaven Jerkyashouan

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
2111 BIRCH ST.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting April 1, 1965

Meeting was held at 5869 Westheimer with the presence of all members of the Parish Council.

Mr. Bardoony, as chairman of the Bldg Committee will contact the suggested members and try to obtain their approval. He will call a meeting of the said committee the soonest possible.

We are to open a special account for Building Fund -m Armenian Apostolic Church of America. This suggestion still to be studied further on as to the right name to be chosen.

All proceeds from the Church meeting and banquet have to be deposited at a Bank. The Bank chosen will be the Chimney Rock National Bank.

Next meeting we will have to decide about the pledging of funds.

The amount of \$ 25.00 was paid to the Secretary of State of Texas as fees for application to the Charter of our organization. On this occasion the Council expresses their appreciation for the handling, free of any charge, to the Firm Saub, Walker & Hammond for their effort in the obtention of the Charter.

Zouren Jerkyasharian

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting May 6, 1965

The meeting was held at 5869 Westheimer in presence of all members of the Parish Council.

Mr. Barcoony gave his report on behalf of Bldg Committee about their progress.

A convenient lot has been found near the Woodway, Memorial area. This consists of a 2 acre lot with a small building. The price of this property being about \$ 35,000.00 the Bldg Committee is taking necessary steps for final acquisition through application to the Title Co.

The Council was very pleased to learn and appreciated deeply the donation of \$ 5,000.00 of Mr. Sam Harrison. The later, it was understood was sending a check for the above amount to the Diocese in New York who in turn will send their own check directly to Mr. Barcoony who is also a trustee. This property is being bought for and will belong to the New York Diocese.

The chairman brought to attention that very shortly with the purchase of the property we will be bound in monthly payments of approximately \$ 400.00 to \$ 500.00 in order to meet our monthly installments and other expenses.

Accordingly we have to expedite matters in raising funds among members of the community.

It is suggested and agreed that an affair be held the soonest possible at the site of the property by inviting all members of the community. We would invite also Father Arakelian and at his presence and through him we would start our pledge campaign that same day.

In discussing the financial situation, it was found that our funds at the moment not comprising any pledge amount to approx. \$ 200.00. This after all expenses incurred and after the funds raised from our Church and Banquet affair. We issued check of \$ 100.00 in payment of the leasing of the hall from Houston Home Owners Association. Also check of \$ 25.00 representing State of Texas fees for the Council's Charter. Other checks were also written but not mailed yet for the following: \$ 50.00 to Diocese New York value of 10 books and check for \$ 15.00 to Providence Church for value of 15 key rings. These two last amounts have been raised by contributions less about \$ 10.00 and money consigned to the treasurer.

We are postponing the printing of letterheads due to the fact that very likely we would to invite other prominent members of the community in the Bldg Committee and their names should also be printed.

Mr. Barcoony will call Father Arakelian about our invitation and learn about how soon he could come.

In recognition of the free services of the Firm Saub, Walker & Hammond in the obtention of the Charter, the Council agrees to have our title arrangements for the new property made through this firm. We are sure that the said firm will be in a position to help us in other matters also in the future. Also the Council

Jovan Jerhyanian

(to be continued)

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting May 6, 1965
(continued)

decides to have insurance questions dealt by Mr. Lou Heller, an insurance agent, who offered to make contributions to our organization.

The Vice Chairman proposed and was agreed that the Houston Armenian Women's Association should be dealt with appropriate consideration since they are offering their cooperation and help. The Council appreciates this specially because it has been mentioned so often that this project is one that requires the efforts of every armenian and allied to the cause. We will benefit by every people's assistance. The Council reaffirms its resolution that regardless of denomination every person wishing to join will be welcome.

Zaven Terkyashian

Minutes of Parish Council meeting November 24, 1964

Meeting with presence of all members of the Parish Council was held at 5869 Westheimer at Bagdad Carpet Cleaning Co.

Letter of Father Arakelian was read advising us about his arrival in January 1965 when a church service and an annual banquet will be on the agenda.

Due to the importance of these events some ladies of the Houston Armenian Women's Association were also invited to attend to the meeting. These were Mrs. Rose Sanjakian, Mrs. Mary Cameron, Mrs. Armen Najarian and Mrs. Sonia Kirkyasharian.

All ladies present offered their assistance in making every effort possible to obtain a successful affair.

The food donated by the women's group will be reimbursed to them on the expenses of the Parish Council treasury.

An episcopal church which is the church the most in close contact with the armenian church should be chosen. In order to be able to do so we have to find an episcopal church that will give permission to use their facilities. Mrs. Sanjakian to that effect will get in touch with Mrs. Vartaressian whose ~~all~~ family belong to the Episcopal Church at Main and Holman Streets.

After the church service it will be convenient if we could have a gathering similar to the one we had last June. If possible Valian's Restaurant could be used again. This time the food will be taken care of by the community and we would charge in order to raise some funds. It was decided that the price of the ticket for adults will be \$ 3.00 and \$ 1.50 for children.

There was some discussion about the expenses that this will require. It was decided that we will be able at least to be able to afford the money needed.

A discussion erupted between the ladies present about the name to be given to their group now that a major organization had been established for the whole armenian community. The proposal of the president of the Houston Armenian Womens Association Mrs. Sanjakian that the following name be given Ladies Auxiliary was not accepted by the other ladies present. Several other suggestions were presented by other members but without any success. It was finally decided that there would be no change for the time. The ladies offered their services nevertheless for any assistance that it will be required from them.

With regard our/ community affair tickets and invitation will be printed and invitations sent to all members of the community and later on this will be confirmed to them by telephone.

Sonia Kirkyasharian

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 BERING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022

Minutes of Parish Council meeting January 27, 1965

Meeting with the presence of all members of the Parish Council was held at Bagdad Carpet Cleaning Co. offices at 5869 Westheimer.

Proposal of the forming of a Ladies Auxiliary was studied with the eventual election of some of the following ladies: Rose Sanjakian, Sonia Kirkyasharian, Anahid Harrisson, Zabel Hovsepian, Veronica Sanassarian, Lily Puci. No definite decision was reached.

It has been decided that all monthly meetings of the Parish Council be held on the first Thursday of each month. The following meeting due to the forthcoming activities will have to be held in March.

About the aforesaid activities a letter will be addressed to the Rt. Rev. Archbishop Sion explaining our plans and also ask him permission for the trip of Father Arakelian.

Zaven Kirkyasharian

Meeting of Parish Council February 27, 1965.

This meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Stephen Saxenian at 7534 Briar Rose, Houston Texas.

Present all members of the Parish Council and some Ladies of the Armenian Ladies Association of Houston.

The same day the Reverend Father was met at the airport by a delegation of the Parish Council. The Reverend Father will stay at the residence of Mrs Rose Sanjakian. The Council appreciates all the efforts of Mrs. Sanjakian in that respect.

The Reverend Father discussed about the final arrangements made for the 2 major events : Church services at Christ Church Cathedral at 3.00 P.M. and First Annual Banquet at 5.00 P.M. at Houston Home Builders Association's Banquet Hall, on Sunday February 28, 1965.

The fund raising for these events will consist of a collection during the church service and the entrance fees to the banquet which are and have been decided to \$ 5.00 per adult and \$ 2.50 for children uner 12.

Gouran Sanjakian

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
2111 BERING DR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Minutes of Parish Council meeting of September 10, 1964

at 5869 Westheimer

All members of the Parish Council present.

It was decided that the eventual Ladies Auxiliary group's name will be mentioned in the "Charter".

As regards the letter received from Father Arakelian, a lawyer will be contacted in order to comply with the request contained in said letter. The letter of Father Arakelian dated July 28, 1964 was referring to the need of having the local lawyer to get in touch with Diocese's lawyer in New York about necessary steps.

The chairman suggested that he ^{will} approach on behalf of the Parish a well known lawyer of his, Mr. Victor Saub. This suggestion was approved.

The next point to be discussed was the question of the funds needed for our project.

It was decided that the most important step to be undertaken at the moment was to begin with the community center. A chapel could be built later.

Efforts will be made at first for the purchase of a lot about one to two acres. The lot may be obtained in a more convenient basis from the City.

Mr. Hekimian and Mr. Azadian are to inquire about such lots.

A decision was taken that the members of the community should be approached about their possible contributions.

This should be either payment or pledge. Two members from the Parish will contact members of the community. They will call together to the houses of the people they know best. This pledge will have to start on October due to the fact that many people are still absent from the city because of the summer season.

The decision of having at least one meeting every month was approved.

The Parish Council will have another meeting immediately after the start of the pledge campaign.

Govsa Sirghashian

First meeting of the Parish of the Armenian
Community held at Valian's Restaurant in June 1964
(June 14, 1964)

Through the cooperation and assistance of the Houston Armenian Women's Association a community affair was held at Valian's Restaurant. The object as explained to all members and sympathizers of the armenian community is to find a way in creating an Armenian Center and Church in order to fulfill the wishes of all those interested in that project. Reverend Father Leven Arakelian had accepted the invitation to be present on behalf of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, New York. The invitation to the Father was sent on Behalf of the Armenian Women's Association by their acting president Mrs. Rose Sanjakian and also of the armenian community in general.

The Women's Association members had worked intently for the success of the meeting by sending invitations, by contributing in the preparation of desserts, by obtaining the lease free of charge of Valian's Wedgewood Room, in a way organizing and supervizing the whole affair. The persons present to the dinner had paid Valian's for the food served.

After a short program and explanations and speeches about the meeting and the future plans, Father Arakelian named the names of seven members of the community who were being elected to form the first temporary Parish Council. These members are Stephen Saxenian, Anton Hagopian, Yohannes Hekimian, Zaven Kirkyasharian, Hrant Bardoony, Mike Sanjakian and Hratch Azadian.

At the end of the gathering it was suggested that the Reverend Father's trip expenses having not been taken care of, we should raise the necessary amount that is \$ 165.00 among the persons present. The amount was raised in fact and the money handed over to Father Arakelian later on.

Zaven Kirkyasharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 2/1/1968

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council except Messrs. Ohanian and Hekimian. Mr. Ohanian was attending at the time the choir practices in preparation of the Vartanantz program. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer gave his report on our financial situation and after our monthly loan payment our regular account will stand at approx. \$ 150.00. The special account stands the same as last month but we will have to make the transfer for the payment of the Warwick Hotel bill of \$ 550.00 that is still outstanding.

(Copy of this) Messrs. Bardoony and ~~Hekimian~~ suggested that we postpone the coming of Father Arakelian and have Mass at Easter instead of Vartanantz. There was a lengthy discussion on this subject among members of the Council. Reference was made to our previous Parish Council meetings of December and January and to our minutes for these two occasions and also letters of invitations already sent to Bishop Kebreslian and Father Arakelian. All members present at these meetings had unanimously agreed for the Mass celebration at Vartanantz, and it was said it was improper and confusing to think of any postponement. Mr. Bardoony suggested that we have officiating priest for Vartanantz and Easter and also on any other occasions if we could afford it. Later on a decisive vote was cast on this question. Voted for Vartanantz Mass ~~xxxx~~ Messrs. Saxenian, Gregory, Kirksharian, Bardoony, Sanjakian. Voted against Messrs. Hagopian and Ohanian (the latter had joined the meeting)

It was decided then to carry on as scheduled. Mr. Ohanian will telephone Father Arakelian about the details referring to cultural program and the Mass and we will be able to print our announcement and invitations accordingly.

We are planning in having the following activities that are slightly changed. Buffet Dinner at 6.30 to be prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary. Mr. Sanjakian will be in charge of coordinating this. Later on, same evening our cultural program will take place and for which Mr. Ohanian is in charge. Mr. Jacques Bedevian who was invited to attend the later part of our meeting accepted, as already known, to direct the cultural part program referring to the choir, but said that he could not do so for the Church Choir. Admission fee for this evening will be \$ 2.50 adults and \$ 1.25 for children. The following day, the church services will start at 10.30 A.M.

The secretary will start at least 2 weeks before these events in sending our invitations to all members of the armenian community in Texas. In that effect we will also try to publicise in the newspapers and Mr. Saxenian said he hoped that he could take care of this by talking to Father Skaaf. Mr. Saxenian also earlier in the meeting gave an account on his recent trip to New York where he had met Father Arakelian ~~xxxx~~ who had accepted our invitation. The meeting was adjourned after being decided that we should call a special meeting one week before Vartanantz to check on all outstanding matters referring to this affair.

PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SAM G. HARRISON
HONORARY CHAIRMAN
STEPHEN SAXENIAN
CHAIRMAN
H. C. BARDOONY
VICE CHAIRMAN
ZAVEN KIRKSHARIAN
SECRETARY
K. S. GREGORY
TREASURER

ANTON HAGOPIAN
YOHANNES HEKIMIAN
JANI CHANIAN
MIKE SANJAKIAN
ADVISORS

Zaven Kirksharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF May 9, 1968

Were present at this meeting all members of the Council. Mr. Bardeony for whom the regular meeting had been postponed to this day gave a report about his recent trip to New York on the occasion of the Visit of His Holiness Catholicos Vasken and the consecration of the Cathedral.

The situation of our finances was again reviewed and Mr. Gregory notified that our regular account is in no possibility to take care of numerous outstanding bills plus the monthly mortgage payment to Mr. Sweet. Our special account has about 2,000.00 dollars. With very recent collections and also after borrowing from the special account we should be able to meet the present financial obligations. Members of the Council were all very concerned about the little income we were getting from members of the community, this income had been quite substantial at the beginning but it is very low now and with no sign of any immediate improvement.

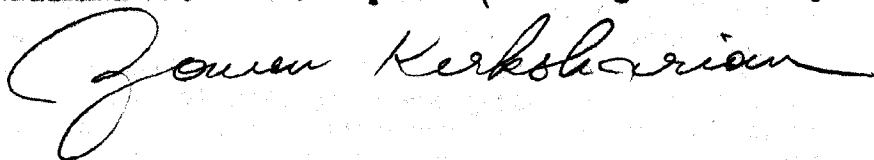
A letter from the Houston Armenian Womens Association was read in which we were asked to grant permission to this group for their annual picnic to be held Sunday September 22 the 22nd, 1968.

Mr. Saxenian explained that this group had already advised us about their program as per various calls they have made and also as mentioned in one of our Parish Council meetings. This was first brought to his attention on the month of January, and was also known to members of the Council.

A discussion erupted about this question. There were many opinions expressed some in favor and some against. In favor were in view of our critical financial situation regarding our monthly income, the alienation of persons that could contribute either directly or indirectly should be avoided, maintaining at the same time a good public relations attitude which could only but bring benefits. Against were this affair will interfere with other activities of the Church Auxiliaty.

A vote was taken to decide about this issue. Voted "yes" = S. Saxenian, K.S. Gregory, Jani Ohanian, Anton Hagopian, Z. Kirksharian. Voted "No" = H.S. Bardeony, Mike Sanjakian. Accordingly that motion was approved by 5 votes against 2.

Mr. Sanjakian continued to argue about the same question and because of that the Chairman Mr. Saxenian quit the meeting followed by Mr. Kirksharian.



PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SAM G. HARRISON
HONORARY CHAIRMAN
STEPHEN SAXENIAN
CHAIRMAN
H. C. BARDOONY
VICE CHAIRMAN
ZAVEN KIRKSHARIAN
SECRETARY
K. S. GREGORY
TREASURER

ANTON HAGOPIAN
YOHANNES HEKIMIAN
JANI CHANIAN
MIKE SANJAKIAN
ADVISORS

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 1970

Responding to the invitations mailed to old and new members of the Council the following were present :

Messrs. Yohanness Hekimian, Zaven Kirksharian, James Boyajian, Joseph Galoostian, Anton Hagopian, Stephen Saxenian, Garabed Keramian, and Dr. A. Pakchanian.

Before going on with the ~~next~~ pre-arranged schedule of the meeting as detailed in the invitations and comprising 8 items, the Chairman Mr. Yohanness Hekimian, announced that he had just received in the mail, letters from the Archbishop making appointments of members for the Bodies of the Church.

As far as the Parish Council, according to His Grace's wishes, the members would be Chairman, Stephen Saxenian, Vice Chairman, Yohanness Hekimian, secretary, Zaven Kirksharian, treasurer James Boyajian, members Messrs. H. Bardony, K. Gregory, J. Galoostian, G. Keramian, and Dr. A. Pakchanian.

This was unexpected because at the last meeting with the Primate and as per His Grace's wishes, no changes were to be made.

Mr. Saxenian was very hesitant about it and suggested that he might accept but only on a temporary basis, He would consider this nomination and give in due time his final decision.

In different letters the Primate was also appointing the members of the Ladies Auxiliary and Sunday Committee.

Returning to the items on the agenda, Mr. J. Bedevian, gave a very detailed report on the situation of the raffle tickets with special documentation in writing. From a total of 5160 tickets, the number of tickets sold and pledged as sold were only 1820, that is at \$ 10.00 per booklet of ten a total amount of \$ 1,820.00.

Due to the many complaints received about the postponement of the raffle and, also and mainly, that this would form and not too favorable reputation for our organization, it was decided to forego the unsold amount of tickets and have the drawing held on December 31, 1970, during the New Year's Party. Furthermore only the sold tickets, so far, would be accounted for in the drawing.

Before reaching that decision, the Council considered also the feasibility of having the raffle held during the announced next visit of the Primate for February 1970. But this visit will coincide with proposed festivities of the Vartanantz, and to avoid that celebration with a raffle the council decided on the above date.

Mr. J. Boyajian recommended that a special Armenian Christmas celebration be organized with as much participants as possible regarding the members of the Bodies of the Church. To that effect he will arrange the program with the cooperation of Mr. Bedevian.

Due to the absence of Mr. Hovsepian and because of the unpreparedness of the financial situations of the other Bodies these items were postponed to our next meeting.

Dr. A. Pakchanian's recommendation about educational program met the approval of the Council as well as of the Chairman of the Sunday Committee. During previous discussions it has been agreed that questionnaires to inform about the community wishes and our suggestions be mailed to the Community. We would inform at the same time about our goals for religious, social, educative activities.

Zaven Kirksharian

(to be continued)

(Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of December 10, 1970)

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
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continued

Mr. Boyajian's motion for 2 meetings for the meetings of the Parish Council per month was seconded and approved. Also Mr. Galoostian's motion about the dates to be the first and third Sunday of the month and at 7.00 P.M. was seconded and approved by a vote = 5 in favor and 3 against.

Concerning the difficulties of our drainage system, or septic tank, the Council asked Mr. Mike Snjakian to investigate this question and ~~adv~~ advise the Council about his findings.

Answering to the question of Dr. Pakchanian concerning the expenses of the visiting priests, the Chairman explained that this would depend mainly on our financial capabilities or otherwise as per the wishes of the Diocese, as per their earlier suggestions.

At the end of this meeting, the Council members discussed the arrangements for the New Year's Party with the Ladies Auxiliary. An invitation from the Council will be forwarded to the Community about details. The Ladies will take care of the menu, Soft drinks will be supplied by the Council. Mr. Hekimian will arrange for the entertainment with the Azadian Brothers, for live music and will arrange with Kevork Hekimian with recorded music.

The meeting was adjourned after Mr. Saxenian's announcement that his decision would come later on and was temporary only for the time being as far as his position as Chairman.

Zaven Kurbakian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 29, 1970

This meeting was held under the Presidency of His Grace, Archbishop Torcom Manoogian who had come on a special visit to the Houston and Texas Armenian Community.

Standing members of the Parish Council present were Mr. Yohannes Hekimian, chairman, Zaven Kirksharian, secretary, and advisors, Messrs. Stephen Saxenian, Anton Hagopian. Later on, His Grace nominated the following to be ~~present~~^{members} of the said Parish Council and bestowed on all present his blessing for the success of our Organization. The new members are: Mr. Jimmy Boyadjian, Mrs. J. Boyadjian, Mr. Joseph Galoostian, Mrs. J. Galoostian, Dr. A. Packchianian, Mr. G. Keramian.

His Grace introduced to the Parish Council Miss Serpoochie Hekimian as member of the newly proposed Youth Committee. This, under the supervision of Mr. Jimmy Boyadjian could very successfully gather all other young and teen-age groups among our Community and have them interested in gatherings to be held at the Church.

As a matter of fact, His Grace, nominated and organized this Group as a Sunday Community Assembly with the task of: Making a survey of the Community (specially for Houston) to be taken care of by Mr. Boyadjian with necessary help from Mr. Galoostian and Mr. Saxenian as far as stenciling and information. It has been recommended that invitations be mailed but above all to render this fruitful "follow up" by phone calls be made. Mr. Hekimian has handed over to Mr. Boyadjian index cards representing a recent roster of the Community. A special effort for new comers should also be made.

The Sunday Community Assembly Committee has the following Members: Mr. Jimmy Boyadjian, Chairman, Mrs. J. Boyadjian, Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Joseph Galoostian, Vice Chairman, Mrs. J. Galoostian, Recording Secretary, Member, Miss Serpoochie Hekimian.

The program envisioned for this Committee consists of assemblies for services for new young group and also grown ups, Church hymns, teachers, cut version of Badarak every Sunday, games and socials,

On the question of the formation of a new Parish Council, Serpazan requested that no changes be made for the present. That is that apart from the new members, old members still in office are: Yohannes Hekimian, as chairman, Z. Kirksharian, secretary and treasurer if Mr. Hovsepian not available, Treasurer Mr. J. Hovsepian, Vice Chairman

(to be continued)

Zaven Kirksharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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(minutes of Parish Council meeting November 29, 1970)

(continued)

Mr. H.C. Baroony and Advisors :Mess. S. Saxonian, K. Gregory,
Anton Hagopian.

The meeting was adjourned with the blessings of the Primate of the Church for the success of our efforts and his best wishes to the new members.

David Nersisyan

P.S. After the reading of the minutes the following corrections on the Parish Council meeting of the December 10th, 1970 :
Mrs. J. Boyajian and Mr. J. Galoostian are not members of the Parish Council but members of the Sunday Community Assembly as indicated previously.

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of JANUARY 3, 1971

Members of the Parish Council meeting present were Messrs. Stephen Saxenian, Y. Hekimian, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, J. Galoostian & K. Hagopian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. J. Bedevian gave the following report on the Raffle : First prize was won by Dr. Esterada, second by Y. Hekimian, third by Dr. Ed. Tasian, fourth by Papken Gabrielian, the last prize was not in the tickets sold and a decision will be taken about it. Mr. Bedevian handed over 9 checks for the amount of \$ 1278, and he had previously in October given also checks in the amount of \$ 380.00 approx. making a total income of \$ 1658.00. More details will be provided by Mr. Bedevian later on in a complete written report about this affair.

The Council decided that letters of thanks be mailed for the donations of the raffle prizes, also to the Ladies Auxiliary for their effort and arrangements for the New Year's party, and Mr. Kevork Hekimian for his handling of the musical entertainment that evening. The gross income from the New Year's Party amounted to \$ 305.00 considering that about 60 persons had attended.

In our next meeting we will be able to handle to Mr. J. Boyajian the treasury records and in that respect signature (new) specimen of the treasurer Mr. Boyajian together with Y. Hekimian and Z. Kirksharian will be submitted to Western National Bank.

Mr. J. Galoostian accepted to help in the capacity of corresponding secretary in order to alleviate the task of others in other fields. In that respect he volunteered to remind the Parish Council members ahead of time about our meetings each first and third Sunday. A roster will be mailed to him the soonest possible.

Mr. J. Boyajian's questionnaire was unanimously approved and will be mailed starting the following week. In the meantime a Christmas program (Armenian Christmas scheduled for Jan 10, 1971) will also be mailed with the cooperation of Mr. Bedevian the quickest possible.

Mr. Y. Hekimian accepted to take care of the air conditioning system that apparently is not functioning normally. At the same time he proposed that a roster of all Armenians be prepared and handed over to him in order that he may start his pledge campaign.

(to be continued)

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1-3-71

(continued)

He will also find out about the possibility of renting a Hall for the special celebration of Vartanantz and will report in about 5 days.

The Parish Council considered also the letter advising about the next visit of the Primate schedule for February 8 to 10 and the wish expressed for a good program to mark that day. A letter to Serpazayn Hayr will be forwarded as acknowledgement and at the same time asking for his guidance.

The meeting was adjourned.

James Chubsharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of JANUARY 17, 1971

Members of the parish council present were Messrs. S. Saxenian, Y. Hekimian, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, J. Galoostian, A.K. Hagopian and Garabed Keramian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. J. Bedevian gave a written report with complete details of the winning tickets of the raffle. Motion of approval was made by Mr. S. Saxenian and seconded by Z. Kirksharian.

With reference to items contained in the previous meeting Mr. Y. Hekimian reported that the air conditioning system had been checked and was in good condition now. The treasurer's books were handed over to Mr. J. Boyajian.

We have started receiving answers to our questionnaires and very soon we should come into a decision about organizing and advising all persons interested with questions raised in said questionnaires.

The New York Diocese having asked for up to date roster of Armenians in our region ~~and~~ ^{an} this assignment was taken by Mr. J. Galoostian. Mr. Y. Hekimian who will be fulfilling the post of Pledges Committee Chairman, has been handed over a roster of members of our community. We are hopeful that Armenians and Friends will contribute in order to keep our organization in satisfactory financial situation, able to take care of our mortgage installments, plus the overhead expenses necessitating an approx. amount of \$ 300.00 monthly.

The Parish Council realizing that we had no information on the financial situation of two other accounts of our organization decided to ask immediately for such information for the Ladies Auxiliary and Building Fund accounts. Letters will be addressed to these 2 Bodies asking for financial statements. It was learned in the meantime that the balance up to date of the Ladies Auxiliary account stands as \$ 448.82 in Savings Account and \$ 222.32 in checking account. This situation, however, has been deemed very abnormal. According to the State of Texas laws regarding Corporations and also the submitted By Laws of our Church to the State by which ^{we} were granted recognition as a Texas Corporation, non profit, the Board of Directors is fully responsible in every aspect. Any mishandling of funds or disbursements without the control of the said Board is not lawful. Accordingly, the Parish Council decided to bring this important matter to the attention of the Primate of the Church on his forthcoming visit, in order that a suitable solution ^{be} reached. The Board of ^Directors, that is the Parish Council, should ^{have} full control since they are the higher responsible body. (continued)

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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Mintes of the Parish Council meeting of 1/17/71 (continued)

Concerning the Vartanantz activities the following were discussed:
A prominent non Armenian person should be approached for a speech on the topic of the day.

Menu to be served that evening will consist of "looloo" koftah, bolghor and rice, sarma, salad, coffee and cakes. This was, later on, passed to the Ladies Auxiliary who are to organize. A letter to that effect confirming these will be addressed to the Ladies Auxiliary.

Mr. J. Boyajian is to take care of the publications for the Vartanantz activities both in the new media and by sending the invitations. To that effect we are to ask New York for literature, biographical data and photographs of the Primate. These should be published and invitations be mailed by end of January.

Program could consist of an introductory speech by the Chairman, giving the succession to the other lecturer and on to the address by the Primate. These to be followed by recitations and songs.

Previous to the starting of this cultural part, the supper will be served at 7.00 P.M. Charges will be \$ 3.00 per adult and • 1.50 for children.

Messrs. Bedevian and Ohanian who are volunteering to be of help will be approached in regard to the cultural part.

If we have a chance we will try to contact Miss Virginia Babikian, the well known local vocalist for her participation that night also. Mr. Y. Hekimian is to greet the Primate at the Airport.

Considering that the Parish Council will meet in a general meeting, as per the wishes of the Primate, on Monday the 8th of February, it was unanimously agreed to hold a meeting instead of the first Sunday of February, to have that meeting on Sunday January the 31 st.

The meeting was adjurned.

Jovan Hekimian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES JOINT MEETING and
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 2/8/71

This meeting was held under the presidency of the Most Reverend Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Present were Messrs. Stephen Saxenian, Hrant Baroony, James Boyajian, Anton Hagopian, Yohannes Hekimian, Zaven Kirksharian, Joseph Galoostian, Garabed Kermian, Dr. A. Pakchanian. (from the Parish Council) Mesdames, Emma Hagopian, Shaka Berberian, Rose Sanjakian, Armen Najarian, Fary Hekimian, Serpohie Hekimian, Beatrice Keramian, (Lad. Auxilliary) Messrs. Mike Sanjkian, Jani Ohanian, Armen Adanalian, Kevork Hekimian. Markar Hekimian (of Bldg Committee and as guests) Mesdames Sophie Boyajian, Joseph Galoostian. (Sunday Community Serv.)

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting of the 17th of January 1971 were read and approved.

Dr. A. Pakchanian, requested the notices for our meetings be mailed to him earlier so that he may be advised ahead of time.

The Parish Council bank account as per report submitted by J. Boyajian stands at \$ 1616.17.

The question of questionnaires will be discussed in our next meeting since we are receiving quite a number of replies.

The Ladies Auxiliary should present regularly a report of all activities in which they are involved.

The Primate stressed on that occasion that according to our By-Laws 60 % of their account at the end of each year should be turned over to the Parish Council and they will be allowed to keep only the remainder 40%.

The Ladies Auxiliary financial statement was submitted and it stands for \$ 453.70 in Savings Account and \$ 122.32 in Checking account. Also the Building Fund account was presented for the period of the last two years.

The Sunday Community Service Committee gave his report on activities and these comprises: the questionnaires, Armenian Christmas celebration, Sunday service program, Choir rehearsals.

We are endeavoring to have a monthly publication of our organization mailed to the community in general. More in that effect should be done as far as publicity is concerned. For instance, we could publicize our Vartanantz activity in local papers and also out of state or New York papers. The Primate suggested that we ask list of papers from New York.

Our "Vartanantz" program was submitted to the Primate. This is being organized in cooperation by Messrs. Boyajian, Bedevian, the Ladies Auxiliary and their role as hostesses.

(continued)

Raven Kirksharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027
MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 2/8/71 (continued)

The Primate announced that he had just a private interview with Mr. Sam Harrison. According to information, Mr. Sam Harrison before contributing any further, would like to be assured that our organization is doing its utmost for religious, cultural, social activities and not only social ones. He is very concerned in keeping up our national heritage. He needs to know about statistics of membership and if armenians are themselves interested or do they want help from outsiders. The needs as defined by the Primate consists in writing off the mortgage and new facilities comprising new sections and building.

With reference to that, the letter of Mr. Bardoony to Alec Manoogian was read in which the answer was that we may get help if the mortgage on the property is paid off and contribution expected for new constructions to be used for cultural purposes.

Also letter to Sam Harrison by Mr. Bardoony was read. This was the starting point of the interview of the Primate and S. Harrison.

In order to advance proof of the interest of Armenians as far as payments are concerned they were two propositions ; Start a fund raising campaign up to \$ 2,000.00 at least which will be used to reduce the amount of the principal of the mortgage, as proposed by Dr. A. Pakchanian. The other is the monthly payment of pledges which is being at the present conducted by Mr. Yohannes Hekimian. The Parish Council will decide on this matter on their next meetings.

It was suggested that some efforts be made to organize our youth. If possible a Chapter of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America could be established and in that respect our younger members of our community should be approached.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Kerksharian

P.S. After the reading of the minutes the following omissions were added :

Mrs. R. Sanjakian submitted a financial report of the Building Fund for the last 2 years. This account shows a balance at the end of 1970 an amount of approx. \$ 80.00. Messrs. S. Saxenian and Y. Hekimian reminded that according to instructions of the Primate this also should be turned to the Parish Council in a 60% percentage.

Zaven Kerksharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 1971

Members present at this meeting were Messrs. Y. Hekimian, H. Bardony, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, A. Hagopian, G. Keramian and J. Galoostian.

Mr. S. Saxenian had excused himself due to a sickness in the family.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Our financial situation as per Mr. J. Boyajian stands at \$ 1051.00 after payment of the current mortgage monthly payment.

We are waiting to hear from Mr. Sweet and the Title Co., with reference to the tax arrears and Mr. J. Galoostian will handle this matter as soon as sufficient information is provided to us.

Having learned that the payment of the 60 % from the treasury of the Ladies Aux. was being refused by the treasurer of that group Rose Sanjakian, the Council intervened to that effect. After explanation offered by Messrs Hekimian, Boyajian, Kirksharian that treasurer had to accept this, in conformity with the Primate wishes and the By-Laws of our Church.

It was decided to organize a layman's Palm Sunday service to be followed by a shish kebob party to be handled by the Ladies Auxiliary. This activity will be further discussed in our next meeting.

At the same time, we will also study Mr. Hekimian's report of pledges collected so far, dividing this responsibility and task among other members of the Parish. This question is the most urgent due to our lack of income.

To be able to take care of these imminent matters the Council decided to meet again the next Thursday, March the 11th at 5.30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zaven Kirksharian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 21, 1971

Were present at this meeting Messrs. S. Saxenian, Y. Hekimian, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, J. Galoostian and G. Keramian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The question of news media was presented again. To this respect, Messrs Hagopian and Galoostian are to pay a second visit to Mrs. Helen Hekimian in order to find out about expenses, and the substantial subsidies by the Church. This letter ^(publication) should be mailed to all names in the roster of the Armenian community. Also, the Council will provide eventually all news of interest to our organization and it is hoped that these will be published integrally.

Mr. Boyajian gave the financial report which is the same as last time.

At the forthcoming General Assembly the pledge campaign will be initiated and handled by Messrs. Hekiman and Boyajian.

It was decided that the Palm Sunday activities will be organized as follows: Layman, s Church services at 11.00 P.M. and Dinner at 12.30 noon. The Dinner will consist of Shish Kebab, rice, salad coffee cake, and refreshments. The rice, coffee and cakes ~~to~~ being donated by some ladies of the Aux. and Mr. Saxenian expressed the wish of donating the refreshments. Price has been decided at 3.00 and \$ 1.50 for children 6 to 12 years.

As regard the pledges and the expected income in general, it has been agreed to keep on with monthly pledges, statements to that effect are going to be mailed regularly, a special ledger will be kept by Z. Kirksharian. The retirement ^{plan} of the mortgage on the property which is one of our most important goals, will have to be postponed for the time being and could be initiated immediately after the monthly pledge campaign. A suggestion made at this meeting was to organize a new raffle and special contributions for mortgage retirement plan.

The meeting was adjourned.

Z. Kirksharian

FILE

Houston

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF May 2, 1971

Were present at this meeting the following : S. Saxenian, Anton Hagopian, G. Keramian, J. Boyajian and Z. Kirksharian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. However, due to the absence of Messrs. Galoostian and Hekimian the questions concerning the 2 new members and work to be done on the back yard will be again reviewed on our next meeting.

Mr. J. Boyajian gave our financial situation report which stands now at a balance of \$ 1476.71.

The transfer of the amount of \$ 400.00 approx. has ^{not} been made yet this was the 60th. It is regrettable that we have among us a treasurer of the Ladies Aux. who so arrogantly defies any form of discipline. It was decided to address to that person a strong reminder of the explanation contained in the copy of the letter addressed for that purpose by the Primate to Mrs Sanjakian. That copy of the said letter was read to the members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council unanimously decided on the following : Although appreciating strongly the efforts and advice given to Mrs. Sanjakian, they have to also maintain their attitude as regard the dismissal of the said treasurer from the Ladies group. This is the only way in preventing continuous dissent and disturbances. Already there had been a previous altercation about the need of purchasing a dishwasher. Rose Sanjakian insisting about buying one and all the other Ladies disagreeing. Furthermore, the Parish Council in order to avoid unpleasant situations, decided to instruct the Chairman of the Ladies Aux. to avoid inviting that treasurer in their regular meetings, and that she should be taken off the Board. A new letter will be prepared and addressed to the Primate explaining this particular situation and ^{that} the nomination of a new treasurer cannot be avoided.

Considering how much affected Mr. Bardoony was in our last "turbulent meeting" and since he is absent, copies of the letters of the Serpazan to that effect will be mailed to him.

The Council were gratified by the response of the community to their efforts, the pledge campaign. So far we seem to be doing good, but constant check ups are necessary with people who have not pledged yet and also reminders either by letter but most definitely in person for those who are delinquent.

We could now open a special savings account, the purpose of which will be to gather some money that would be used for the reduction of the principal on the mortgage, and at the same time an additional income from the interests. The amount suggested is \$ 1,000.00.

Zaven Kirksharian

(continued)

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

(continued)

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF MAY 2, 1971

As far as having continuous activities at least once monthly, the forthcoming showing of the Blessing of the Muron will be one that we hope to make a success. As suggested, we should plan a most important one for the beginning of the Fall right now. A new raffle or an anniversary banquet could be organized and we should talk about this matter on our next meeting.

Preparations are being made for the film showing for the current month. The appropriate time will be the week end of May or rather Sunday the 23 rd. Letter to Father Parea Metjian who has the film will be forwarded. The Ladies Aux. will be approached for food arrangements for the same evening. It is proposed that we have an Armenian meal consisting of lehm madjoon, sarma, tan, coffee, dessert. The food to be served at 6.00 P.M. and the showing after some explanations given by members of the Council about 7.00 or 7.30 P.M. Admittance fees will be \$ 2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students and \$ 1.25 for children 6 to 12 years of age. Our most important problem for that evening will be to find or rent the necessary equipment. This should fit the width of the film which is the wide 35 mms. Furthermore, the projection should be adapted to our back hall which is not large enough to contain all these items.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jovan Kerkorian

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 16, 1971

Were present at this meeting the following : Stephen Saxenian, Garabed Keramian, Josph Galoostian, Zaven Kirksharian, A. Packchanian, Yohanness Hekinian. The previous minutes were read & approved.

The treasurer Mr. Boyajian being absent we did not have a financial situation. However it was learned that we had finally received the check for the 60 % of the account of the Ladies Aux. We are going to open a Savings Account where said amount will be deposited as previously decided in order to serve eventually for the reduction of the principal of mortgage. This account will be arranged to have 2 out of 3 trustees to sign for withdrawals and these are Messrs. Y. Hekinian, J. Boyajian, Z. Kirksharian.

Messrs Galoostian and Hekinian to contact Mr. Matosian and Moonjian as candidates for the Parish Council.

We should write and find out about the itinerary of the Serpazan for the coming Fall in order to have the opportunity to invite him in our Parish.

The rental of the projector for the 35 mm movie of the Blessing of the Maron being very expensive, about \$ 150.00, Dr. Packchanian promised to inquire in Galveston about the possibility of obtaining one on a special price basis from the University there. If not it was decided to go ahead and order the rental from the Houston Educational Aids, Mr. Harris, as already approved.

Mr. Hekinian will take care of the cutting of the grass and other details pertaining for the coming event. Mr. Kirksharian will mail the special invitations for same. We will have the dinner at 6.00 P.M., food to be prepared by the Ladies Aux. and the projection of the movie will take place at 8.00 - 8.30. This event was finally decided to be held on Saturday evening May the 29, 1971.

A copy of the roster of the Armenians will be mailed to Dr. Packchanian who will try to publish an index book.

Our next meeting (Parish Council) will be held once a month for the summer season and that will be the second Thursday. The Building Committee question will be discussed further on but in the meantime it has to accept the authority of the Parish Council.

The council received a proposition from Mr. Hank Allers who will contribute part of his commission for sales of Alkinslake Resort. The meeting was adjourned.

*of note are
minutes*

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

May 9, 1971

Mrs. Emma Hagopian
Chairman Ladies Aux.
St. George Arm. Church & Center
5634 Locke Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mrs. Hagopian,

Please note that the Parish Council members on their meeting of May 2, 1971 had to take a very serious decision concerning the lack of discipline and arrogant attitude of your treasurer Mrs. Rose Sanjakian.

As you know and all other members of your group also, it is very difficult and very often impossible to have peaceful meetings with the presence among you of a constant trouble maker like Mrs. Sanjakian.

As decided in our said meeting, we ask you that you do not invite to your coming meetings the said lady. Arrangements will be made later on for the nomination of a new treasurer and we will keep you posted on future developments.

Sincerely yours,

Zaven Kirksharian
Zaven Kirksharian.

Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 24, 1971

Were present at this meeting Messrs. S. Saxenian, Z. Kirksharian, A. Hagopian and J. Galoostian.

Mr. J. Boyajian having excused himself to this meeting we could not have a financial situation. Also Mr. Hekimian being absent we could not have a first hand report on the brawl that happened on the Church property among persons present to a Party organized by some young Armenian of our community. The information gathered so far about this incident is very disheartening in as much as this should never have happened, this was a fight that had erupted when people were leaving and on the front yard.

Our last church activity, the showing of the Blessing of the Euron was not very successful. The rather not too large gathering undoubtedly appreciated the film but on the other hand financially it was a pure loss, due to the unforeseen expenses.

The Chairman advised that the Serpazan had planned to be in Houston on September 12, 1971. Subsequently a letter will be addressed to the Diocese in New York, giving our consent and asking hopefully that Serpazan's arrival be early Sunday in order to have an appropriate church activity.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zouren Kirksharian

✓ Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, OF DECEMBER 5, 1971

Were present at this meeting Messrs. S.Sarenian, J.Galoostian, J.Boyajian, Z.Kirkshrian, G.Keramian & A. Hagopian. This meeting was held after the showing of the film Historical Armenia and ~~and~~ members of the Ladies Auxiliary joined members of the Parish Council in order to examine together the preparations of the New Year's Party.

Messrs. Jani Ohanian and Hike Ohanian have accepted to take care of the entertainment part of the New Year's Eve Party. They will make arrangements to have live entertainment apart from recorded music. Mr. ~~Armenian~~ with the Hilton chain of hotels who is in town will be heading that program. Also there was a proposal to rent a big tent to be installed on the Patio of the Center Hall in order to have more room. Messrs. Ohanian are to report to the Council about their assignment.

The ladies Auxiliary will be preparing the menu will consist of Armenian style food and snacks to be served this year earlier at the early part of the evening due to requests to that effect. Admission charges will be \$ 5.00 and \$ 3.00 for students. The set ups will have to be provided for by the Parish Council. Added beverages could be brought to the party by the guests.

In order to co ordinate all these efforts and to supervise and be the representative of the Parish Council, Mr. Joe Galoostian accepted to be the Chairman of this affair,

The meeting was adjourned.

James Kerkerian

✓ Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of December 22, 1971

Were present at this meeting Messrs. S. Saxenian, J. Galoostian, Garabed Karamian, Y. Hekimian, Anton Hagopian and Z. Kirksharian.

Messrs. Jani Ohanian and Hike Ohanian, who had joined this meeting in order to give their report on the New Year's preparations, were also present. The question of the live entertainment by Pierre Bedrossian was not a sure thing and for that reason they were trying to organize something different. They were others, namely two persons who could play the organ and a guitar plus a drum. Authorization was given to rent needed instruments, the guitar and the drum for that week end. Even one instrument to be rented before for practice purposes.

We will not have to rent a big tent. On the suggestion given by Messrs Ohanian, Mr. Hekimian offered some material he has and that could be used to cover the pation door area. The work to be done will be handled by Jani Ohanian who will be supervizing the group of volunteers. Mrs. Vanoush Ohanian will take care of the trimmings and decorations and Mr. Mike Ohanian was appointed as the emcee of the evening. For any other needs, the Chairman of the New Year's party, Mr. Galoostian will be approached.

Mr. Boyajian, our treasurer, being absent, we did not have a financial report and situation. Mr. Karamian announced that up to the present the amount of raffe tickets sold was about \$ 600.00.

The color T.V. was already donated by the Hovas Brothers and was delivered to Mr Hekimian's place. However, this time the Hovas Bros, asked and inquired to Mr Hekimian about the situation and results of our raffle programs. They wanted to know if no profit, appreciably, was ~~not~~ made, they would rather prefer to donate a lump sum of money. A report whoud be send to them for that purpose.

The set ups are going to be supplied by Mr. Galoostian.

The question of the door prizes for the evening was not decided upon. Something to that effect, is, nevertheless, being considered.

In our next meeting we should prepare a list of names of members of our community that we could recommend to the Primate of the Church. The Archbishop has already remind us about this question in previous talks and letters, about nominations in our Church Bodies.

The meeting was adjurned.

Zouman Kirksharian

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77027

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 1973

The Parish Council convened at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 1973, at 1111 Bering Drive.

Present at the Meeting were:

Stephen Saxenian, Chairman
Yohannes Hekimian, Vice Chairman
James Boyajian, Treasurer
Joseph Galoostian, Secretary
Vigen Ohanian
G. A. Melik Keramian

The Minutes of the January 18 Meeting were read.

Mr. J. Boyajian, Treasurer, gave the Financial Statements as of January 11, 1973, as follows: \$2,056 in the checking account and \$1,308.97 in the savings account. All bills are paid and none outstanding.

The Council discussed the rental contract for the Nursery which calls for rent of \$100 per month for the first year; \$150 for the second year, and \$200 for the third year. It was suggested, and a motion made and carried, that the rental be continued at \$100 per month for this year and a decision made later regarding the third year.

A decision was made to hold the Vartanantz Celebration on Sunday, March 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. instead of Saturday, March 10 as previously announced. Notices will be sent out.

Mr. J. Galoostian read the Minutes of the General Hospitality Meeting of February 11. (Copy attached)

A discussion followed on ways and means of raising funds to pay off the Mortgage. The Chairman, Mr. Saxenian appointed Mr. Keramian and Mr. Hekimian as Chairman and Co-Chairman of a committee to run a lottery or raffle this year.

February 15, 1973

Page 2

It will be necessary to raise \$6 to 7,000 to pay half the mortgage, the other half pledged by Mr. Harrison. Mr. Hekimian will try to have the Nursery pay in advance for the year. An effort will be made to have all pledges paid in the next three months.

It was felt by those present that with all-out drive for funds, the mortgage could be paid this year and plans then be made to go ahead with enlarging the church buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gladys C. Abajian, Secy.

Attachment

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
Houston, Texas 77027

February 15, 1973

The Hospitality Night of the Armenian Church was held on February 4, 1973, at 1111 Bering Drive from 4 to 8 p.m.

A moderate turnout and an informal meeting made the occasion a success. Mr. Boyajian acted as the Hospitality Chairman, and explained to the parishioners the contents of Mr. Harrison's letter. Mr. Harrison's letter, in essence, formalizes his previous verbal commitment of donation of one-half of the remaining balance of the church mortgage, subject to the condition that the parishioners raise or contribute the remainder. The remaining mortgage as of January 1, 1973 is \$15,750.

A call for an all-out effort to raise the necessary funds was made by Mr. Y. Hekimian, the vice chairman of the Parish Council. Mrs. Susan Ayyazian, the chairwoman of the Ladies' Auxiliary asked that those who could and wanted to, should join the Ladies' Auxiliary and play an active part in making this organization strong to serve the community more effectively.

The parishioners were asked to submit their ideas and plans for raising the funds to retire the mortgage and to meet the annual expenses of the church.

Mrs. Y. Dancer volunteered to teach Armenian to children. She also offered her talents to organize and produce a play appropriate to the occasion of celebrations of feasts such as the "Vartanantz".

It was announced that those interested in joining the choir should submit their names to Mr. J. Boyajian.

Pledge cards were prepared and distributed or mailed to the church members by Mr. C. Keramian.

The following suggestions were received from the floor:

1. That the New Year Party donations be increased.
2. A lottery be planned for this year.
3. A La Carte menus be tried.
4. Rummage sales be held.
5. Bingo be investigated.
6. Booths be secured for sale of food or other items.
7. Solicit donations in person by volunteers.
8. Serve simpler foods.
9. Charge for soft drinks and set-ups.
10. Armenian language be taught.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. Galoostian

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77027

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 5, 1973

The Parish Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 1973,
at 1111 Bering Drive.

Present at the Meeting were:

Stephen Saxenian, Chairman
Yohannes Hekimian, Vice Chairman
James Boyajian, Treasurer
Joseph Galoostian, Secretary
Haikaz Ohanian
G. A. Melik Keramian

The Minutes of the February 15 Meeting were read.

A report was given on the February 17 costume party. It was attended
by 50 enthusiastic people in spite of snow and rain.

Mr. Boyajian announced that the checking account balance as of March 5,
1973, is \$2,577.28. He made a motion that \$2,000.00 be deposited in the savings
account to draw interest. Motion was approved.

Circulars for the Vartanantz Celebration on March 11 were mailed
announcing a film of Armenia, songs and recitations by children, and refreshments
to be served.

Mr. Galoostian suggested there be a Committee set up to welcome new-
comers, send condolences and thank you acknowledgments when required.
Mrs. Suzan Ayvazian will get names of newcomers and contact them. Mr. Galoostian
suggested dues be paid by members of the Center. The Council generally felt it
was too early to start this.

March 5, 1973

Page 2

There was a discussion regarding a raffle to raise funds. A trip to Hawaii was mentioned as a first prize. It was decided to table this discussion for the present.

Various means of canvassing for collecting pledges were discussed. Copies of lists will be given to a group to make personal calls on people to turn in pledges.

James Boyajian suggested a Palm Sunday affair, April 15, with a shish kebab, Easter egg hunt, games for children, etc., with a possibility of lay service preceding the festivities.

Mr. Hekimian will write a letter for the Parish Council to Mrs. Rose Sanjakian giving her 10 days to turn over the Ladies Auxiliary funds before legal action becomes necessary.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys C. Abajian

Gladys C. Abajian, Secy.

ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH & CENTER
1111 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77027

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
April 2, 1973

The Parish Council convened at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 1973 at the Center at 1111 Bering Drive.

Present at the meeting were:

Stephen Saxenian, Chairman
Yohannes Hekimian, Vice Chairman
Joseph Galoostian, Secretary
G. A. Melik Keramian
Vigen Ohanian
Joseph Moonjian

The Minutes of the March 5 meeting were read and accepted.

Due to the absence of Mr. James Boyajian, Treasurer, there was no Financial Statement given.

Mrs. Susan Ayvasian reported to the Council that she had called on Mrs. Rose Sanjakian regarding the funds being held by her. Mrs. Sanjakian still refuses to turn over these funds and the Council voted to take legal action. Mr. Hekimian will turn this over to his lawyer for further handling.

Mr. Saxenian told the Council he had been approached by the Priest of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Community in Houston, asking to use the Chapel for their Sunday services until they can establish their own facilities. He has written to and received approval from the Archbishop, but the Council decided to look into this further and discuss it with the Nursery using the building and also talk further with the Priest or a representative of the Coptic Community. (Correspondence attached) There will be more discussion on this matter.

Mr. Keramian gave Mrs. Susan Ayvasian names of newcomers so the Ladies Auxiliary can make contact and welcome them to the community.

Mr. Keramian announced the prizes for the Raffle and the tickets will be printed. The prizes are as follows:

April 2, 1973

Page 2

1st Prize	Return trip to Hawaii for two
2nd	Color TV set
3rd	Lawn Mower
4th	Polaroid Camera
5th	Dinner for 2 or 3 at a leading Houston Restaurant

The approximate total cost of prizes is \$1,300. Donations will be \$2.00 per ticket or \$10 for a book of 6 tickets.

The Drawing will be held on Saturday, September 15 at an affair at the Center. Plans for this affair will be made jointly with the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Mr. Moonjian will supply a Volley Ball set for the Palm Suncay affair.

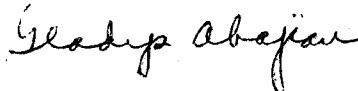
Mr. Vigen Ohanian announced he had a simple method of teaching Armenian and it was felt by the Council there would be a number of people interested in learning to speak Armenian. There will be publicity put out on this.

Mr. Hekimian and Mr. Vigen Ohanian decided to panel the walls of the back recreation room with plywood and close it in. They will do this together give the Council a cost figure and start on it at once.

Mr. J. Moonjian will check with City Hall to find out the cost of connecting water lines to the city line. More discussion will be held on this at the next meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gladys C. Abajian, Rec. Secy

Attachments