

MINUTES OF SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - OCT. 3, 1976

Meeting was opened at 12:30 by Der Paree Metjian with a prayer. 75 members were present.

Total members

Mr. Jon Najarian, our Parish Council Chairman, announced that only 1975 paid up members can vote, but that anyone was able to take part in the discussions.

Jerry Donabedian thanked the Feasibility Committee for the wonderful report they had prepared and sent to the Parishioners.

Jon Najarian explained why the Expansion Program had been modified by the Feasibility Committee in its prepared report to:

1. Lower our sites due to high cost of building.
2. Make classrooms, renovate hall and purchase property next door.

Mr. Ed Torosian made motion to accept the Feasibility Report as amended. Motion was seconded and carried.

Jon Najarian stated that Mr. Sarkis Bedevian and Der Paree Metjian met with Mr. Edward Mardigian, President of the AGBU Central Committee of America; Mrs. Armenine Sapah-Gulian, AGBU Youth Director; and Mr. Haigaz Mekhalian, Executive Director of the AGBU on Monday, Sept. 27th, at 2 PM at the AGBU Office in New York City. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange unofficial dialogue as to the possibility of AGBU financial assistance in building a Community Center on St. Leon premises.

The report of this meeting was read by Mr. Bedevian.

The need for such a community center in New Jersey is:

1. New influx of people
2. Estimated 20 to 30,000 Armenians live in the area.
3. There are four established communities in N. J.
4. At present such a facility does not exist.

St. Leon has a preferred location because:

1. Availability of land
2. Central location
3. Easy access
4. Parish expansion project
5. Community-wide support

It was resolved that a joint St. Leon-AGBU Committee be formed, consisting of 3 members from St. Leon and 3 members from AGBU to survey the needs of the Armenian Community in N. J. and to prepare a proposed Community Center master plan.

(Continued)

This Committee will agree upon the terms as to how this proposed Center will be financed and will work out other related matters.

Final plans will be submitted to the Parish Council and to the Parish Assembly of St. Leon and to the AGBU Central Committee for their approval.

Jon Najarian further stated that this was merely an informal meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Parish Council that St. Leon Parish Assembly accept this report as presented.

Harry Zornian made a motion to accept the report and Jerry Donabedian seconded that motion. Motion was passed.

Mr. Najarian stated that the Diocese is aware of the preliminary discussion and that they will be kept informed on the progress, although we do not have its official approval. This is merely a preliminary discussion and not binding in any way.

The recommended proposals of the Parish Council to the Parish Assembly were then discussed:

1. Purchase approximately 1-1/4 acres of adjoining property for \$40,000 maximum.
2. Conduct negotiations with AGBU to build a joint community center.
3. If AGBU negotiations come to negative conclusions - proceed with construction of an approximately 3,000 sq. ft. classroom building and refurbish downstairs hall at a maximum expenditure of \$150,000 including the cost of land in 1) above. N
4. If AGBU negotiations come to a positive conclusion, call a new Parish Assembly meeting for further deliberations.
5. Parish Council is given the authority to appoint committees and committee members as required to carry out 1-4 above. The Building Committee appointed by the Parish Council for the classroom building will be ratified by the Parish Assembly at the next scheduled Assembly meeting or a special Assembly meeting called by Parish Council.

Mr. Charles Pinajian made a motion to go ahead with the purchase of the adjoining property with or without AGBU financing. Motion was seconded and passed.

with 70 votes for - how many votes?

Fair call

Mr. Sarkis Soultanian made a motion to encompass Proposals 2-5 into 1 motion for approval. Martin Kapoian seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Leon Hodejian made the following motion:

1. We accept the memorandum as distributed today.
2. To give the Parish Council of St. Leon authority to appoint a Negotiations Committee.
3. Another Parish Assembly be called within 2-3 months to get final recommendations of the Parish Council and Negotiations Committee to determine the future action of our Parish.

Mr. E. G. Dabagian seconded the motion.

Der Paree Metjian would like #3 Proposal to read as follows, making it an amendment of Mr. Hodejian's motion:

If AGBU negotiations come to negative conclusions - proceed with plans of construction for approximately 3,000 sq. feet classroom building and refurbish downstairs hall at a maximum expenditure of \$150,000 including the cost of land in 1 above, and submit said plans to Parish Assembly for approval.

Mr. Hodejian amended his motion to include Der Paree's rewording of Proposal No. 3.

Motion was carried,

*with 173 votes for and 2 against
how many votes for — against —*

Der Paree made a motion to authorize the Parish Council to appoint a Building Committee and to consider it the legal Committee to do the preliminary work until the Jan. Parish Assembly. Motion was passed after it was seconded.

Mr. Peter Kalemkerian made a motion and it was seconded and carried that no AGBU member be on the Negotiations Committee for St. Leon.

NOTECIAW

Leon Hodejian made a motion that the maximum sum of \$5,000 be approved for use by the Building Committee to draw up plans and specifications for the 3000 sq. ft. addition, provided the Negotiations Committee discussions with AGBU fail. It was seconded by Sarkis Soultanian and the motion was carried.

Sunday School has 80 students and Armenian School has added 20 new students.

Der Paree stated that we must be positive in our thinking and that this project with the AGBU can only succeed if we work hard and only optimism takes us forward. We should have vision and foresight and the future of the Community will go ahead if we put the little things in second place. We should have a goal and we will accomplish this goal if we all pull together. He needs our constant cooperation and help and we cannot succeed without 100% support of our parishioners.

The Assembly was adjourned at 2:30 P.M. after a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary *Doris Teller*