

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes December 13, 2017, 2017

Members Present: Abby Steele, President, Neal Goldman, Past President; Charlie Frohman, Vice President/Brotherhood; Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Vickie Kennedy, Sisterhood President, Ed Mercel, Tracy Aquila, M.G. Orender, Ron Van, Donne Ordile, Stuart Rosenthal.

Jacquie Sinder, Executive Director and Rabbi Matuson were in attendance.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Abby Steele, President.

Approval of November Minutes: The November 14th, 2017 minutes had a motion to accept with two corrections. Cathy Winterfield's name begins with a C, and under facilities, Ed requested that "handled" be replaced with "inspected by Puraclean for mold issues". The minutes were approved and accepted with these amendments.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi read an article from 1990, by a retired Army officer about the protocol for Jewish persons wearing "dog tags" when serving in Saudi Arabia. They were instructed to wear a Protestant one, so they would not be singled out. A Chaplain approached the author of the article about attending a Simcha Torah service, held in absolute secrecy. "Only Americans would have the Chutzpah to celebrate a Jewish Holiday under the noses of the Saudi's!" It made the author prouder to be an American, and a Jew. He celebrated other Holidays in the desert. The Rabbi said we may take for granted here, that "maybe Hannukah" is like a Jewish Christmas but it is really more than that. It can give us solace that religious freedom still prevails."

President's message: A warm welcome from Abby Steele, President. She thanked Charlie for running the meeting last month. She also commented that "I really want to take a moment and thank Rabbi, Jacquie, and Vickie as they are the consummate professionals running this place. They treat each other and congregants with such respect. My level of respect for them is enormous. Thank you for all you do. In these seasons of thankfulness, and thank you, I also want to thank the Board for everything you do."

Treasurer: The Board did not have any new members this past month. Chip presented an actual budget vs YTD from July to November 2017. "Right now we are above budget." Neal inquired "if since we raised dues, has anyone dropped out"? Chip responded that "none that we know of", he said at some point he will do a comparison to see. There was some discussion and MG asked for further clarification about our revenue, he noted that fundraising and High Holiday revenue was ahead of projections. The utilities have gone up significantly and we may want to look at it to determine if there is a problem. Abby inquired about the religious supplies, and asked for clarification since it is significantly above budget.

Business Matters:

Board Committee Chair Reports and New Business:

Ways and Means – Tracy reported the Gala will now be held at 3 Palms Grille, March 10th. It will be held outside, there will be heating lamps, and the only thing we need to do is the center pieces. The farm to table motif will not be used. We looked at other fundraisers for the Temple, such as selling H & H bagels- we need to sell 18,000 bagels to make \$6,000. There was much discussion about profitability and competition with our established corned-beef sandwich sale. We want to also engage the community as well as our congregants. Future ideas will be explored. Charlie asked to find out about the freight cost because he might be able to get a better pricing for us.

Synagogue Policy for Convicted Sexual Offenders- Abby brought to light that we need to have a policy to prohibit and protect the congregants of our congregation from a convicted, registered sexual offender. If we have knowledge of a convicted sexual offender in our synagogue, we are potentially liable for putting younger or older people in jeopardy. There was much discussion surrounding this sensitive issue. It was suggested that we ask a lawyer to craft language to determine the best way to develop such a policy. The subject was closed with Neal agreeing to contact a lawyer to develop the appropriate language, it will then be reviewed and approved. The Board wishes to enact a policy to prohibit a convicted sexual offender access to Beth El properties. The individual may maintain membership and meet with the Rabbi privately. A motion was proposed that we have a framework for language based on conversation with an attorney to refine the language to set forth our proposed policy. It will then be submitted to the Board for approval.

B'nai Mitzvah Catering Policy- Sisterhood announced that it will no longer cater B'nai Mitzvahs. Both Vickie and Jacquie are looking for three different caterers with different price points. There was much discussion, to determine what the Sisterhood made when they catered B'nai Mitzvahs. A motion was made to keep facility fees as is and add a charge of 5% catering fee for use of Beth El's facility. It was seconded and unanimously approved. It will be effective after the next two B'nai Mitzvahs.

Sisterhood- Vickie Kennedy announced that as of June 30th, she will resign as President.

Brotherhood- Charlie reported that they have a nice dinner although the pastrami didn't show-up!

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board will be January 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary