

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2018

Members Present: Abby Steele, President, Neal Goldman, Past President; Charlie Frohman, Vice President/Brotherhood; Cathy Winterfield, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Vickie Kennedy, Sisterhood President, Ron Van, Donne Ordile, Stuart Rosenthal, Sherill Herzfeld, David Marco

Jacque 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 December 13, 2017 minutes were approved and accepted.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi referred to the Book of Exodus. He asked why did G-d cause the plagues? G-d knew the Pharaoh's heart was hardened and the first five plagues were because of his hardened heart and that is why he was punished. He then asked us to look at our own behaviors, "what we do is what we become". "For us it is a matter of having a Judaic skin and maintaining our own integrity. So, keep up the good work and perhaps we will keep in mind this awareness of our actions and what we practice."

President's message: A warm welcome from Abby Steele, President. She thanked the staff (Jacque and Vickie) and the Rabbi for all their hard work and commitment to the synagogue. She also thanked the Board for coming to events and also for the feedback regarding the development of an effective Harassment Policy for our synagogue that applies to the Board, staff and congregants. "If someone is a sexual offender, it is better to bring these things to the surface in order to protect the synagogue and congregants. I also appreciate all the care and consideration shown to the congregation. Thank you."

Treasurer: The Board did not have any new members this past month. Chip presented an actual budget vs YTD from July to December 2017. "Right now we are running in line with our budget." "We are actually \$17k ahead of schedule." There was discussion about the Utilities line item and why it was so high. Chip clarified that the June bill of \$1800 was paid in July and that was why that month was higher. But, he said we budgeted a straight \$2k a month". Also discussed were the Chanukkah Fundraiser and Religious supplies- both of which the Board is awaiting feedback.

Business Matters:

Board Committee Chair Reports and New Business:

Synagogue Policy for Convicted Sexual Offenders- Neal reached out to an attorney to go over the language of this policy and he hopes to have something put together for the next Board meeting.

Harassment Policy- Neal looked on the Yammer site to see if there was a template we could use for our impending policy. Since there was none, he would like to consult Bob Reigel regarding the appropriate language. Abby suggested we form a committee. The following Board members volunteered: Abby, Neal, David, Sherill, and Charlie. Sherill will reach out to the committee for a date and time to meet via conference call.

Pet/Service Animal Policy- It was the sentiment of the Board that only service dogs with a vest were to be permitted in the Synagogue. Some discussion as to how to implement the policy, whether we put up a sign, which has not been successful and has alienated some people, to an e-blast communicating this issue. The following motion was presented: “Out of respect for the synagogue and consideration of congregants, no pets are allowed inside the Synagogue. Service animals in vests, are always welcome to accompany their owners.” The motion was approved by the Board.

Board nominations for 2018-2020- As the immediate Past President of the Synagogue, Neal is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. They will be meeting in February and hopes to report back to the Board about the nominees by March. The two-year term will be over for Cathy Winterfield, Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, MG Orender, David Marco and Donne Ordile. Neal mentioned that each one of these Board members will be receiving a form asking if they wish to return and in what capacity “We also need a President-Elect. And we need to go out there and search for new, intelligent Board members that can contribute. Please reach-out to Abby or to me if you are interested in becoming the President-Elect.”

Library Committee- Cathy reported that the committee will accept donated books through the chair or designee. They request that the donor have an appointment and review the books for acceptance to the library. Charlie inquired why it doesn't grow and wondered if there is a need for a library. Vickie responded that the *Belles Book Club* uses it. Donne wondered if it must have a Jewish theme. There was some discussion about the value of the Library. Neal reminded the Board that Jacquie is not responsible to work on the Library, rather the Chair or designee is. The following is the Policy submitted by the Library committee: *LIB #004 : Policy on Donated Materials. Donated materials will be accepted upon the approval of the Library Committee Chair or designated committee member. Prospective donors must contact the Chair for an appointment to review the materials and determine whether the materials are needed. Donated books will be acknowledged by dedication plates.*

B'nai Mitzvah Catering Policy- Abby presented the catering packet to the Board. There was some discussion about whether the caterers should sign a contract with Beth-El. Chip mentioned that we have a contractual letter in place.

Sisterhood- Vickie reported that Bobby Adler coordinated a beautiful First Responders luncheon and they were most appreciative. Also on the calendar are: Tu'bishvat, January 30th at 6 p.m. and Sisterhood led Shabbat February 23rd. She then announced that the Sisterhood Board decided it will no longer be in the catering business effective immediately. With regard to Kiddushes, Publix will be providing the food. The Caring

committee will not do Shiva meals anymore. There was much discussion of the financial impact this would have on the Sisterhood and subsequently the Synagogue.

Brotherhood- Charlie reported that pizza with the Rabbi was very nice. March 1st the Brotherhood and Sisterhood have a co-joint meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board will be February 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary