

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018

Members Present: Abby Steele, President; Neal Goldman, Past President; Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Vickie Kennedy, Sisterhood President; Ron Van, David Marco, Stuart Rosenthal, Sherill Herzfeld, Tracy Aquila

Rabbi Matuson was in attendance.

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

Approval of January Minutes: The January 11, 2017 minutes were approved and accepted.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi referred to Moses and the Exodus. Nothing was going right for the people of Israel; even with the plagues, the sea splitting, they were still lacking something. Then G-d did something unexpected, something that brought Israel together, a common cause. "It is not what G-d does for us, it is what we do for each other." "I do believe that what we do transforms us. What is it that makes this congregation unique? What great cause to which we can dedicate ourselves and look for meaning. You the Board must have some vision that is important enough to spend your time here and contribute to the ongoing programs needed. Something that transcends us, what is our vision? Let's continue to create an environment of excitement and galvanizing."

President's message: A warm welcome from Abby Steele, President to the Board. "It's interesting that the Rabbi's D'var Torah is along the lines of my message. "We are setting sail on a good direction. We continue to move in a good direction. Sometimes there is a lot of noise that tries to deter from what we are doing. I would like to ask everyone in this room to be the bearer of goodness of Beth-El and to not fall victim to the negative noise. Let the community know about the good work that we are doing, the Shabbat services, the school, the Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, life cycle events, sisterhood, brotherhood, community-outreach programs, and a multitude of programs and services. My request is that we be the good voice of Beth El."

Treasurer: The Board welcomed and unanimously approved new member Trish Barber, single membership. Chip presented four pages of line item details, the actual budget through the last seven months. "The revenue is tracking as expected, we still are \$17,000 ahead of budget at this time" Chip said. Neal asked if we were slow in dues revenue or attrition? It seems that we have brought in fewer members this year. Sherril asked if "we want to consider getting more money when we sell High Holiday tickets? Perhaps to get a higher % paying monthly." There were myriad reasons to factor in when considering our financial and dues revenue. Some people are on financial assistance, some do not send in their recommitment form, some resign. Vickie suggested we have an exit interview when people leave; that might be insightful.

Business Matters:

Board Committee Chair Reports and New Business:

Gala Committee - Tracy reported that we are 32 days away. We are looking at our auction items and need more for the silent and live auctions. We will be bulk-mailing the invitations, so look out for them. We also had someone offer to donate a photo booth, which will be fun. We will be sending out Press Releases to the newspapers, as well. There will be e-mail blasts and face book posts to promulgate this.

Corned Beef Sale- From the Executive committee: There is a huge amount of work assembling and delivering the sandwiches. The proposal is to sell by the pound. The question is, understanding that we may lose some business, perhaps can we get more business by coming up with a “take-out concept” whereby we sell, a pound of corned beef, pastrami, matza ball soup, kasha varnishes, pickles, etc. A “Deli for you”.....concept. We will do it after Passover, April or early May, stay tuned.

Dispensation of prepaid dues- Because of a recent occurrence, the question arose regarding the existing policy of prepaid dues if a member leaves the Synagogue after a life-cycle event. In order to have a life event, dues are requested to be paid in full. The way the by-laws are written, if someone resigns they need to be paid up to the time the resignation is submitted. It was suggested that we look at revising the by-laws. There was much discussion regarding the life-cycle commitment and fiduciary commitment. The Board cannot change a By-Law; it can recommend a change, and then it requires a congregational meeting and a vote. Next there was a discussion about the Policy & Procedures and what parameters the Board have to make a decision (section 4, and 8). There was much discussion about how to address and craft a motion. Abby suggested we make an “amendment to the B’nai Mitzvah contract that if one leaves, after the B’nai Mitzvah and before the completion of their dues payment, there should be no reimbursement up to that point.” She then directed Chip to re-tweak it and send it around.

The Executive Committee has recommended that Neal draft a letter asserting that we disagree with a particular congregant’s assertions, however, as a measure of good faith, we offer a check of \$500. There needs to be a signed release prior to the remittance. We wish this congregant all the best and hope they can find “Shalom”.

Sisterhood- Vickie reported that everything is good and there will be a Sisterhood led Shabbat February 23rd. On March 1 there will be a joint Sisterhood and Brotherhood dinner with the Rabbi , and Miriam’s Seder is scheduled for 3/13.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary