

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes June 14, 2018

Members Present: Abby Steele, President; Neal Goldman, Immediate Past President; Charlie Frohman, Vice President; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Tracy Aquila, Stuart Rosenthal, Ron Van, Judy DeArman, Done Ordile, Vickie Kennedy.

Rabbi Matuson was in attendance.

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Abby Steele, President.

Approval of June 2018 Minutes: June 14, 2018 minutes were approved and accepted.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson addressed the Board: The Torah portion this week is a double portion. "It is about the cities of Refuge, where if you accidentally caused a death you were safe living in this city." In Israel those cities are still there. "The Rabbis took this as more than a physical location. It was a place of Shalom, where you were safe, if you made a mistake, even if it was an egregious one." "We all need a place that is safe. Do you have a place that if you are agitated or you need to get centered you can go?" "A Shul should be a place you go and get refuge and come and feel like you're safe. I do pray that you have a place either internally and externally that you can come to find that refuge. Beth-El should be that place that you come and feel safe and accepted."

President's Message: Abby Steele, President of the Board, welcomed new Board members. She felt the "Rabbi's comments really aligned with what we want to cover today. People interested in joining and participating in our Synagogue find this as a place of refuge and peace. I'm really looking forward to our next year, it's going to be a good year. There's lots of good things happening and people are interested in joining and participating and we are truly making this a place of Shalom. I am also looking forward to making this Shalom for ourselves, our congregants and leaders to make this a great year. Thank-you."

Treasurer: Chip announced that we have three new members that joined this month. A motion was made to approve each new member: Jean and Ryan Rissman and their eight year-old daughter; Jeff Pollock and Dana Scheer and their 12 year-old daughter; and Marissa and Adam Bedri and their new born. All three were unanimously accepted and the Board welcomed each new member.

Chip then passed out the financial Budget vs Actuals from July 2017- June 2018. He corrected the net surplus to reflect \$24,556 which is now more accurate. Once reason is that the URJ was budgeted for \$7,500 and now is \$8,750. \$1,000 of that is the local Jewish Federation and \$250 was an overpayment that will be applied to next year's payment.

New Business:

Abby addressed the email from Danny Cohen, which most of the Board received. "A number of us have had conversations with Danny, and I had an hour-long conversation with him. I did send an email talking about the number of congregants that left and Chip tried to address it at the Congregational meeting. We really cleaned the roster, as there were members that moved away, left for various reasons, died, or resigned. Right now our current membership is at 155. The list that Danny was looking at was 5/6 years old, and not updated. Some congregants responded that they do feel welcome and pleased as to the direction we are going."

"We, as a Board have discussed, prior to this email, establishing a Liaison Committee, as noted in the June 14, 2018 minutes. Tracy Aquila has agreed to chair this committee. The Executive Board met at length to discuss what it was, how it would work, and what we thought it would include." "In addition to providing a place to air complaints or concerns, it would also be an opportunity for suggestions to improve our Synagogue. We encourage those recommending improved changes, and if it's approved, then that person also take leadership in implementing the suggestion." Tracy is going to reach out to congregants to participate on this Committee. She said "there will be one from the Saturday morning folks, and one from the Friday evening attendees." Tracy wants this to be established before the High Holy days. She opened discussion about how this would work, as the Board wants this Liaison Committee (LC) as a viable, constructive option for congregants to discuss their concerns or suggestions privately. Also addressed by Ron Van were false rumors, how to handle them and quell them. There was much discussion surrounding this topic and the role of the Board in reaching out to people and talking to them about their concerns. If someone is upset, we don't have to wait three months for a meeting, the Board can also be the first line of defense. We can also send Jacquie email and alert her as to the concern and she can contact Tracy regarding the issue at hand. Bottom line, we need to be proactive. We will ask that someone call the office, we will then pick a date, perhaps, a Sunday from 11:00-1 p.m. quarterly. Tracy will let the Board know when the first LC is scheduled, and we will let the Congregation know in August.

Letter of Understanding (LOU)- Lori Simmons has asked for a Letter of Understanding from us that reflects her Cantorial services, family Shabbats, teaching and tutoring work. Abby is going to present to her a LOU, that is not a contract, but will indicate an increase in her remuneration. There was a brief inquiry about the impact on the budget. Chip indicated that will probably cause a deficit of around \$1,000, for this line item. There was a motion for Lori to get her LOU and \$150 per weekend service was made. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Signage landscaping and lighting design- Rachel informed the Board that we intend to have beautiful landscaping and lighting replaced by High Holidays.

Appointment of Education Committee Chair- Abby appointed Donne Ordile.

Vice President- A motion was made to approve Dr. Karen Toker, for one year. It was unanimously approved.

Board Member- A motion was made to approve MG Orender for a one-year term. It was unanimously approved.

Board Committee Chair Reports:

Sisterhood – Vickie reported that many sisterhood members have stepped up to chair multiple events and programs. Here a some of the women stepping it up: Nancy T., Nancy R, Paula K, Sheryll H, Bobby A, Stacy J, Sharysse, Naomi, Tris B, Donne. She thanked them and is most appreciative.

Brotherhood – Reported by Charlie, that they did not have a dinner last month and are planning one this month. There are 35-40 active members. Charlie wishes there were more men that took leadership for some of the programs and is open to the Sisterhood doing conjoined programs.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be, August 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary