

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes December 13, 2018

Members Present: Abby Steele, President; Neal Goldman, Immediate Past President; Charlie Frohman, President-Elect; Karen Toker, Vice President; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Grace Belkin, Ron Van, Ron Rapaport, Tracy Aquila, Judy De Arman, Vickie Kennedy.

Rabbi Matuson was in attendance as was Elissa Feldman, Office Manager.

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Abby Steele, President.

Approval of November 2018 Minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson addressed the Board: "I just read a book called The Origin of Forgiveness. Forgiveness was not known in the ancient world until this week as it appears in the Torah portion. Joseph forgives his brother." There are three elements to forgiveness: 1-Confess what you did; 2- Recognition of the mistake; 3-Renunciation that you won't do it again. "I wonder if this is rare now. What does it take to forgive? This was the introduction to genuine forgiveness. Who is it do we wish to forgive? It is one of the gifts that bequeaths the Jewish time to forgive. It is the Jewish tradition of limitation of the ego and willingness to accept responsibility for the mistakes we have made and offer forgiveness."

President's Message: Abby thanked Charlie for leading the last meeting while she was gone on vacation. She also thanked the Rabbi for his D'var Torah, very meaningful. "This is a busy time of year, but we don't always realize that everything we do have a ripple effect. Everything we do and say impacts somebody else. We may not notice the good impact nor the bad impact. My request would be to please have an awareness that we do impact our community. We are doing so many good things, the school, facilities, we are taking these steps to make Beth-El really, really great. Please just remember that we want to impact in a good way, as we are in the community and within our congregation. Be kind to each other. I want to say thank-you to each of you for all you do."

Treasurer: Chip reported one new family membership to approve, Sam and Tasha Arieff. The Board voted and they were unanimously approved. Welcome! Chip also mentioned that a former member, Nancy Honig, is interested in reactivating her membership. The Board was very positive in welcoming her. To date, we have approximately 152 new memberships, including the Arieff's. There was some discussion about the Building fund; we do not ask returning members to pay the building fund a second time. Grace Belkin will send welcome letters to the new members.

Chip passed out the financial Budget vs Actuals: FY 2017-2018, July-November 2018. We have spent 40% of our annual budget. He transferred \$2100 to the Building fund line item that will pay toward the mortgage. Presently, we have approximately \$30,000 in that

line item. At his discretion, he wants to move \$18,000 to the mortgage by the end of the fiscal year.

Neal inquired about the progress of the committee formed in support of Rabbi's legacy donation toward paying off the mortgage. Sheryll stated that she sent PR to multiple newspapers and she had one response to interview the Rabbi. Abby will reach-out to David and MG to determine present status of their fundraising efforts.

Discussions about the Directory, which yielded approximately \$750 from the ads.

Ways and Means committee needs to address these matters and Tracy is presently looking for someone to run point on the Directory for High Holidays. There was much discussion to start the planning in March. Sherill got \$900 from the FB Campaign (Network for Good). We will get a check sent to us in the next two months.

New Business:

Memorial for those who were massacred at the Pittsburgh Synagogue- Donation offered by Michael Overstreet. The Board overwhelmingly backed his generous offer. After some discussion about how best to realize this idea, Neal suggested that the school may need to replace the playground equipment. This was confirmed by Vickie Kennedy. This would give us a constructive way to recognize the lives of those lost in Pittsburgh and, also bring joy to our children. The Board quickly approved this idea, pending Abby's conversation with Michael to ascertain his approval. Vickie will research cost of the playground equipment.

SJSCO Update – Neal reported that the St Johns Sheriff Office is unable to honor their initial offer. Consequently, we have secured our previous private armed guard security company, EBS. We will have one armed guard on Friday and Saturday for Shabbat, and two armed guards for Sunday religious school. Neal mentioned that we should proceed with the additional security assessment of \$75 per membership, which we voted on at the last Board meeting. This will assist with additional physical security measures needed by the security committee and help meet their objectives.

Board Committee Chair Reports:

Abby asked if there were any questions on the committee updates that were sent to the Board members prior to our meeting. (Please see the reports attached to this document.)

Security Committee – This new committee will be Chaired by Ron Rappaport. (See attached report)

Education Committee – Vickie reported on behalf of Donne. "We've had incredible success with the Chanukah Party Dinner, over 100 people came. We made over a \$1,000 with the raffle and dreidel competition. The trailer had a leak and we hope to move forward to repair everything." Charlie is coming to meet with a modular building company on Wednesday. Vickie thanked Ron Van for being so diligent with assisting security for the school. "At the School faculty meeting we will be discussing security measures with the teachers."

Sisterhood – Chanukah dinner was lovely with 35 women in attendance. Vickie said “We are preparing for the First Responders Christmas dinner. We appreciate anyone who want to make something or contribute, so please do. We are making progress on the sound system, Tu B’Shevat Seder is coming up January 20th.”

Ron Rappaport said we are going to build upon our relationship with the Police department, offer our Synagogue as a place they can come in and write reports, etc., invite them to eat at our Friday night Onegs, etc.

Elissa asked “Isn’t our door always open to people?” There was discussion about when to lock or unlock the doors in the Synagogue.

Adult Education – Karen reported that there will be a program January 8th, “Women in the Bible” by Donna Berger at 7 p.m.

Archives – Karen stated that “We need to get pictures from the school into the archives, and if anyone wants something in the archives, just get them to me”.

Memberships - (See attached report). Sherill inquired about how we get the names of new members that are interested in volunteering to the various Committee Chairs.

Social Action – (See attached report).

Ways and Means- Gala theme is “Play it forward”. It will have a game motif, held at Marsh Landing March 30th. Tracy and Sherill are working on it. They are looking for new people to join the committees.

Communication – The Directory on the Webpage is not retrieving membership names properly. Sherill is not certain how to update it, but will investigate. Charlie suggested Sherill reach out to his wife as she has all the Directory information on her computer.

Brotherhood – Charlie suggested that in the future, we coordinate functions amongst various groups so that they are not held at the same time. He will be stepping down as Chair when he ascends to President and wants to get “new blood” to coordinate Brotherhood.

New Business:

Sherill brought to the attention to the Board that we’ve got to get more volunteers to help. She also suggested that we can have Committee representatives at the Annual Congregational Meeting stand up and say what they do and invite members to join.

Discussion about reaching out to members, new or old. We can be Ambassadors. The Liaison Committee is not necessarily the right venue to address this. There was much discussion about this and how to implement it. Vickie and Rachel volunteered to identify the members from the Directory and assign them to different Board members.

The Rabbi wanted to thank Vickie and Elissa for a lovely Chanukah event.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be January 10th, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee Report 12/10/18

- *Date set for "Tell Me Why" series (conducted by Rabbi Matuson) answering questions, i.e. What happens if there are not enough for a minyan....How to handle the "December Dilemma", all designed to attract interfaiths/unaffiliateds and existing congregants....January 15th*
- *New member Shabbat scheduled for 1/27/19, welcoming new members who have joined since 7/01/18 (thanks to Joy Shultz for handling)*
- *News and Nosh (thanks to Ron Van for handling) to engage congregants* ▪ *Nocatee PR still being pursued to address Shalom Club*
- *Requesting committee chairs to introduce themselves to congregation via eblast*
- *Birthday wishes for all via telephone or emails*

Committee Name: Social Action

Committee Chairperson: Tammy Shumer

Committee:

Tammy Shumer, Rachel Schare, Tris Barber, Elaine Wright, Jackie Gould, Pam Ervanian

Date Committee met: November 2018

Outcomes of meeting:

Jewish Family & Community services picked up 5 packed bags of condiments for the Block Food Pantry. We plan to collect condiments for JFCS' food pantry until the end of December.

In addition to the condiments. Beth El Sisterhood collected comfort items (nonskid socks, gloves, blankets, soup) for our local holocaust survivors. Thank you to Donna O'Steen from JFCS for picking up the all the items we've collected. Next month we will discuss January's social action project.