

Beth-El Board the Beaches Synagogue

Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Abby Steele, President, called the meeting to order and called upon Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary, for the declaration of a quorum and subsequent reading of the minutes.

Establish Quorum – Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary, declared that there were 64 members present, either by ballot or in person. The quorum requirement is 29 members; therefore, a quorum was established.

Approval of the 2017 Annual Minutes-The minutes of the Annual meeting held June 4, 2017 were unanimously approved and accepted as written.

President's Message- Abby Steele thanked the Board and Congregation for the opportunity to lead our Synagogue for the last year. She reported we have 13 new members, seven B'nai Mitzvah's, two beautiful weddings, and three baby namings. "Our Religious School has grown under the exceptional leadership of Vickie Kennedy; Sherill Herzfeld has promoted our events and programs on social media; Sisterhood has sponsored multiple social experiences, Brotherhood dinners with the Rabbi, new programs such as Cinema at the Synagogue, discussion groups, and particularly Tracy Aquila and her fundraising events. We've been busy and have had a lot of wonderful participation. All of this is because of the Congregation and how we as a family care about one another and love the Synagogue. Thank you all for being here tonight."

D'var Torah - Rabbi Matuson made reference to prayers that seem to have certain powers, the Mourner's Kaddish and the Shehecheyanu which is recited during times that seem to have significance. "I pray and hope there will be many, many more congregational meetings, many more opportunities to discuss things and come together. That said, we want to keep our congregation flourishing", he then invited the members to recite the Shehecheyanu in unison.

Nominating Committee Report-Neal Goldman, Chair, reported that there were more nominees for multiple slots. The nominating committee submitted the following Officers: Charlie Frohman, President elect, Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President, and Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary, each for a two-year term. In addition, the nominating Committee submitted Grace Belkin, Ron Rappaport, Judy DeArman for two-year terms, and continuing members Donne Ordile, and David Marco for another two-year term each.

A question was asked regarding how many openings remain on the Board. There is one open slot, Vice President, that has not been filled, and can be appointed by the President at her discretion with the approval of the Board. This will be determined once the new Board is established. There was much discussion surrounding this issue. One suggestion was that in next year's letter to the Congregation with regards to the ballots, that there be included a statement that if you disapprove of a candidate, you can then a petition for another candidate under the bylaws. There were various comments regarding altering the bylaws to allow for more than one candidate to be presented for each slot. The Board can consider any changes in the By-Laws, which can then be brought for congregational approval at the next Annual meeting, or interim Congregational meeting.

A vote was taken of those in attendance who had not submitted completed ballots in advance to elect the new and continuing nominated Board Members as stated. The votes were counted and subsequently approved by overwhelming majority, though not unanimously. There was one abstention.

A suggestion was made that we consider future voting to be a secret ballot, as it was several years ago.

There was discussion about the Nominating Committee being kept confidential, so there is no politicking or influence regarding selection of potential Board members.

Treasurer's report: Chip Morris, Treasurer, presented the budget as approved by the Board for actual 2017-2018 fiscal year, and forecast July 1, 2018 through June

30, 2019. There was discussion about accessibility to review the budget outside the Congregational meeting. Since the budget is open to all Congregants, it was agreed that there will be copies made available in the Synagogue office for whomever wishes to review the budget. This then evolved into a discussion about “transparency”. There has been a perception that there is a lack of transparency. Increased membership is an indicator on how we are doing as a Synagogue, and everyone seemed to be onboard with desiring open and honest communication, moving forward.

Chip presented a reasonably accurate projection based upon trends and major fundraisers, that the Synagogue will be \$30,000 a head of what was budgeted for last year. Though the dues revenue is less than expected, the revenue from fundraising and lower expenses helped exceed the budget. For three years in a row the Synagogue is in the black.

There was much discussion about our mortgage and then the building fund. The general consensus was that we wish to work down the mortgage and look into expanding the building/building fund.

We have worked very hard to “clean up” the membership list to determine what we need for future membership goals. Presently there are 158 members, 109 family, 30 single, 10 associate, 3 employees, and 6 honorary.

Sisterhood Report: Vickie Kennedy, President of Sisterhood, presented Abby Steele, President of the Congregation with a check for \$3,000.00 on behalf of Beth-El Sisterhood, meeting their financial commitment for the current year. She mentioned the multiple programs offered and that Bobby Adler will co-chair Sisterhood with her.

Brotherhood Report- Charlie Frohman, Vice President, reported a very nice year, with dinners with the Rabbi, supportive efforts with the school, and more participation with Sisterhood.

There was inquiry about the Rabbi’s contract, when it ends, and should a search committee be initiated should there be a need for one. It was tabled stating that it was not an appropriate discussion in an open forum.

Abby appointed Karen Toker to chair the Archive committee.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary