

Beth El The Beaches Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes February 13, 2020

Members Present:

Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Tracy Aquila, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Gary Herzfeld, Treasurer; Abby Steele, Past President; Ron Rapaport, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Chip Morris, Grace Belkin, Judy De Arman, David Adler, Neal Goldman, Vickie Kennedy.

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

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

Approval of the January 16, 2020 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson discussed Moses and his interaction with his father-in-law Jethro, who observed that Moses was exhausted and appeared in despair and somewhat arrogant. He told him he had to appoint people to adjudicate others and begin to help him out. He basically observed Moses "burning-out" and very stressed". The Rabbi then correlated this message as he addressed the Board "When you are feeling stressed-out, you need to find someone to talk to. It is important to have self-awareness and be able to trust someone". As Jethro said to Moses, "A lot of this is your own making. You are good with G-d, but not as much with people". Only after the ten Commandments were created did things for Moses and all the Israelites begin to fall into place.

Vice President's Message: Sherill conducted the meeting and gave a brief message to the Board. "We are forever giving", of our time, money and sweat equity. She pointed out that one of the challenges to recruit and enable volunteers, is to train them, and give them the chance and respect to accomplish things for our Synagogue. She encouraged the Board to "find someone to be a mentor to, so you don't become so overwhelmed".

Treasurer: Gary reported that we remain at 167 members. There were no new members this month.

Gary then passed out the financial YTD from July 2019-January 2020. He continues to track our budget very carefully and explained that our projected

deficit is better than last month's as it is "around" \$28,000 below budget by the end of our fiscal year. The Finance Committee has pursued "*recasting*" the Synagogue's mortgage through the assistance of Rob Fleischman and his bank. Charlie is in favor of it and the paperwork has begun. There are no fees associated with this mortgage change. Gary highlighted that it could potentially reduce the payments by \$2,000 a month (from \$7800-\$5800). The mortgage is currently down to \$510,000. "If we *recast* we have the ability to save \$24,000!

Gary then called for a motion to "*recast*" the mortgage. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

He also put in an endorsement for our Board to support the launching of the "Giving Tree". Tracy will address it under Ways and Means.

New Business:

Ways and Means - Gala Tracy reported that the Gala will be different this year in many ways. There will be no live or silent auction, but in place of that the committee decided to have a "Giving Tree" where each leaf will have a designated donation price, or an individual can indicate how much they wish to donate. There will be a testimonial by Laurie Berger and Tammy will welcome people to the event. The venue is Urban Farms, the Berry Good Farm Truck will be serving dinner, as well as pass-arounds and desert. We will also have music and an open bar. She reported that over forty RSVP's have come in and she asked the Board members to please support the event with their attendance and contributions.

Nominating Committee – Abby shared that there will be 7 open slots to fill for Board positions this year. Three of those are the President Elect, Vice President, and Secretary, four are general/at large positions. She said that the Nominating Committee process will be to review the applications, sort them, and seek good candidates to fill the open positions. She is seeking new and different people to step up and participate. The Annual meeting is slated for May 3rd.

Board Committee Reports:

Facilities Committee – Ron Van reported that they received three bids to replace 119 gallon water heater. They are: \$1,550 – Jerry Nolan which includes the electrical work. \$1,475, does not include electrical work; \$2,300 – Aldrige & Sons, would sub contract the electrical work. Ron asked for a motion to accept Jerry Nolan to provide the water heater and electrical, including a warranty for \$1,550. The motion was accepted and unanimously

approved. Gary indicated that we would immediately see a savings of \$200 a month once this is installed.

Policy & Procedures – Facilities completed the last part of their update to the P & P Manual that now states:

HO#005 *For any new non-budgeted facilities work such as an enhancement or replacement, the Facilities Committee will procure multiple bids for consideration. The Facilities Committee will offer a recommendation and associated justification for approval by the Facilities Vice President (if under \$1,000) or the Board (if over \$1,000).*

For regular, budgeted maintenance, the office manager has the authority to contact the approved vendors in coordination with the Vice President of Facilities and Facilities Chair to proceed with repairs.

Approved by the Board 2/13/2020

Adult Education – See attached report.

Education – Vickie reported on behalf of Donne. There will be a school-wide Purim Carnival on March 8th from 10:30-12:00 noon.

Communication – Sherill reported that plans for the community wide Yom Hashoah will be hosted on April 19th from 3-5 p.m. at Beth El. There is a potential conflict with the JCA as they were planning to host a movie on that day in conflict with the time of Beth El's event. Sherill indicated that they have identified 70-75 Holocaust survivors /family attending the event. There was some discussion about the format and candle lighting. Sherill's father's video will be played and there will be panels and displays from "Letters to Sala" as well as other historical displays.

Legacy/Mortgage Initiative Committee- Neal reported that there will be a thermometer displayed in the lobby of our Synagogue demonstrating how much we have raised and how much we need to complete our initiative. Neal said "with all the pledges in, we are looking at \$220,000 left (within three years) to pay off the mortgage. He talked about hosting cocktail parties to raise more funds, but this will occur after the Gala.

Security – See attached report. Ron added that the DHS grant can be awarded upward to \$100,000. They need to apply now because it could be awarded next September or October.

Sisterhood – Vickie reported that Tu'bishvat Seder is scheduled for Feb. 9th and Sisterhood Shabbat is Feb 21st. Miriam's Seder is Monday night, March 30th.

Brotherhood –David reported that the joint meeting with Sisterhood and the Rabbi is slated for March 5th. Blue Sky Golf is scheduled for March 18th.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be March 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

Committee Reports

Adult Ed. Committee

Chair: Judy De Arman

The Adult Education Committee held a discussion on Tuesday, February 4th. The topic was Excommunication in the Jewish Community. Rabbi Matuson led the informative discussion informing us that this practice exists today when most of us thought the only person ever excommunicated was Spinoza. Rabbi Matuson informed us of the vague reasons that can cause excommunication with the aid of a court of three rabbis. A person is shunned by the community and even those who have anything to do with the person can also be excommunicated..

Finance Committee

MTG DATE: 1/13/2020

CHAIR: Gary Herzfeld

ATTENDEES: Chip Morris, Michael Barkan, Len Elikan, Rob Fleischmann, Buzzy Klausner

TOPIC/S FOR DISCUSSION: Membership, Legacy initiative, December financials, Mortgage Recast, Long Term Repairs/Maintenance & Reserve, Insurance, Energy expense

OUTCOMES/COMMITTEE ACTION:

- 1. Agreed to proceed with Mortgage Recast**
- 2. Need update from Facilities on hot water heater replacement and lighting project sizing**
- 3. Multiple committee members meeting with Beaches Energy next week on cost reduction ideas**
- 4. Agreed to streamline annual commitment/pledge process with auto-renewal feature**

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

SUBMITTED FOR BOARD INFORMATION ONLY (Y/N)? Y

LIST ACTION ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION:

- 1. New member approval**
- 2. Need update from Facilities VP and committee leader on energy reduction initiatives**
- 3. Need update from Marketing/Revenue team on fundraising**

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chair: RON RAPAPORT

Ron Rapaport met with St Johns Sheriff's Office along with David Vandiver from Jacksonville Jewish Center (head security officer) and did a security survey on our building. Report from SJSO will be available early March and will be needed if we decide to apply for a security grant from DHS. Ron also attended a webinar from Secure Community Network offering guidance on how to apply for a security grant in 2020.