

## **Beth El The Beaches Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes April 16, 2020**

**Members Present:** Charlie Frohman, President; 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, David Adler, David Marco, MG Orender, Donne Ordile, Neal Goldman, Vickie Kennedy.

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

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Charlie Frohman, President. Because of the quarantine, there was no March meeting and the Board meeting was conducted through ZOOM.

**Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes:** Corrections were made and the minutes were then unanimously approved.

**D'var Torah:** Rabbi Matuson discussed the Parsha about Aaron and his sons. It reflects an odd set of verses about Judaism and references an 8<sup>th</sup> day. The story is a lesson about perfection. The Rabbi said "There are real dangers of perfections, and the Parsha is antithetical of perfection. Therefore animals were to be sacrificed not people because people weren't intended to be perfect." His message to the Board was "In some sense, imperfection makes us human. We may strive for perfection and the perfect consequence, but we need to be realistic about accepting imperfection and failure. Not being perfect enables us to see the light within."

**President's Message:** Charlie has "seen some amazing things achieved by folks while quarantined". He thanked everyone for what they are doing to support Beth-El and our community. "I hope in the next couple of weeks we will be able to get back to normal."

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

Gary then passed out the financial YTD from July 2019-April 2020. He continues to track our budget very carefully and explained that our projected shortfall was approximately \$30,000 and is now reduced to \$9,000. The mortgage was recast and it is \$2,000 less a month as a result. The Gala fundraiser yielded approximately \$12,000. Also noted is that the annual Golf

fundraiser is postponed till later 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 virus "Shelter in Place order". MG projected that it will occur around Thanksgiving time. Gary applied for funding from the Federal government to receive a \$33,000 loan. "We will demonstrate that we used it to maintain our Synagogue for two months. He was told "it is in the queue" and has not received the final date for distribution. Gary commented that "This additional income will help our cash flow". He then mentioned that it should be noted that "this is initially a loan. If we demonstrate that it is used as it is supposed to be, then after two months it will roll as a grant and we will not have to pay it back."

The Financial Committee feels that the dues this next year should be 'flat' as a result of our recast mortgage and in recognition of the present Corona/economic crisis. "It would be great to keep our dues the same as last year", he said. There was a motion to approve the Budget for 2020/2021 as is. The Board unanimously accepted and approved the motion.

### **New Business:**

The Synagogue will remain closed at least till the first week in May. At that point it will be reevaluated. Charlie expressed a special "thank you to the Rabbi for keeping us connected with our congregation. He also thanked Laurie Simmons for her continued participation in Shabbat services.

Charlie then said that he intended to reach-out personally to all our members. The Rabbi would like to continue his Torah classes, Yiddish classes and confirmation studies. There was much discussion about logistics and feasibility of continuing the services suggested. Sherill asked the Rabbi if he will conduct a "full Shabbat Service".

### **Board Committee Reports:**

**Nominating Committee** – Abby reported that the Nominating Committee conducted three zoom interviews for at-large Board positions. Rachel is stepping down as Secretary, and to date, no one has submitted an interest in the position. She recounted discussions as to reevaluating the role of the position and streamlining the responsibilities.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** – Although initially slated for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, there ensued much discussion about how to conduct the meeting under the present "crisis". It was decided that the safest approach for all concerned would be to have a mail-in ballot sent to members for Board nominees and approval. A letter will accompany the ballot and sent to the Congregation

explaining that due to this unprecedented time, we will not have an in person meeting.

Chip was asked when we could send letters for membership dues. The assumption is that the By Laws as they relate to the Annual Congregational Meeting can be overridden due to these unusual circumstances. Gary will write-up a brief synopsis of our 2021 Budget. Charlie will write the letter and have it mailed and perhaps also electronically.

**Ritual Committee** – Neal presented on behalf of the Ritual Committee that they would like to hire Laurie Simmons for the High Holidays. There was a brief discussion and a motion was made to accept hiring Laurie Simmons for \$3,750 total. It was approved unanimously.

**Ways and Means** - Tracy reported that the Gala was a wonderful success. The venue, the food, the music and comraderie were very well received. She thinks “we netted close to \$12,000”!

**Education** – Last Day of Religious School is May 3rd. The teachers continue to excel in reaching their students remotely and personally.

**Communication** – Sherill reported that plans for the community wide Yom Hashoah will be hosted virtually at 8 p.m. Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Sherill’s father’s video will be featured.

**Sisterhood** – Vickie reported that all face-to-face events are presently cancelled. Belles ZOOMed in March.

**Brotherhood** –David reported that the joint meeting with Sisterhood and the Rabbi was a success and attended by 24 people. Blue Sky Golf will be rescheduled toward the end of the year.

Lastly, Sherill and Vickie have been representing our Synagogue and participating with all the Jewish organizations and Synagogues via telephone in a once-a-week meeting. This has become an invaluable opportunity to network and learn from each other.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be May 19th, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell*

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

# Committee Reports

*No Committee Reports were submitted to the Secretary for this meeting.*