

Beth-El Board of Trustees

Meeting minutes April 18, 2017

Present: Neal Goldman, Abby Steele, M.G. Orender, Chip Morris, Charlie Frohman, Vickie Kennedy, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Ed Mercel, Cathy Winterfield, David Marco, Lou Arab, Jody Leiser, Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Rabbi Matuson, Jacquie Sinder (Office Manager).

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

Approval of the March Minutes: The March 2017 minutes were unanimously approved and accepted as written.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi hoped the Board of Trustees have a "Zeisen Pesach and that we have a sweet, joyous celebration of our freedom". "There are different Torah portions, but for Pesach we go back to the Torah portion involving Moses. Now there is a generation born that is free from the bondage of Egypt, and they are tough kids who encounter the Amalekite terrorists. So, Moses goes up to the Mountain and raises his arms, with two people helping him (Aaron and his nephew), because he is tired. The purpose of this D'var Torah is to ask ourselves who lifts-up our arms when we are tired." The Rabbi reflected that he sees a diminution of himself and in his energy today as opposed to when he was young, he commented that if one cannot help holding up his arms, when needed, please don't make it harder, just step aside for someone else to rise to the occasion. "For those people that do that I am very grateful and I hope that everyone has someone that when tired, they help you to prevail." "I need that too", he said. "At every meeting I wish that for you, so if people are being impolite and rude, I'm going to call them on it". "Let's lift each other up. We are here to give to those that are in need, in many ways, and to the betterment of our synagogue. G-d said "I gave you these hands ". "Let's use them the way they were intended."

President: Neal commented that the Rabbi's talk to us was "heartfelt and appreciated, and hoped that it was understood". He called to everyone's

attention that we are “the Board of Trustees, the Synagogue’s leadership, and to please focus and participate as a Board member. We don’t require you to financially participate at a certain level, but we do expect you to support and participate in our special events. You are not supposed to be the sand in the wheels, so please don’t be cranky, we are a team and we work best as a team.” “What I’m asking is for everyone to remember why they are on this Board and please help lead this congregation.” “Everyone needs to be focused, positive and upbeat.”

Treasurer’s report: Chip reported that there were no new members this month. Chip then presented a P& L Actual vs Budget as of 9 months ending March 31, 2017. The corned beef sandwich sale is not reflected on the March financials. We will have \$12,600 in revenue and a little over \$5,000 in expense, which nets \$7,552. We were below the projected net, which was \$9,000. This was because of lack of sales. Cash flow is the biggest concern to date. The last two fundraisers need to be successful (Gala and Golf Tournament).

We also need to get school registration forms out shortly. Chip proposed that with the projected enrollment and teacher salaries, we increase the tuition by \$25. Presently it is \$695 and will go up to \$720. Chip called for a motion that the tuition of the school increase \$25 for the incoming year(2017-2018), it was seconded and unanimously approved. The registration fee will remain the same. If a student is registered early the fee is \$125 and late registration is \$225.

The subject of the security fees was raised, with a projected cost of \$10,500 next fiscal year. This includes 52 Fri and Sat services, 26 school sessions, and ten events (High Holidays, Hanukkah, Passover). After much conversation amongst the Board, a motion was made by Charlie that in budget year 2017-2018 we have a \$100 across the board for security, and then \$150 averaged across all membership units, depending upon the type of membership (family, single, associate). The treasurer will determine the exact amount for each type membership. The motion was seconded and approved by the full board.

MG strongly feel that the Rabbi has to do some good news letters to the congregants, talking about the good things we do here, to include information

about how the school growing, membership is growing, new and innovative programs, etc. The communications person can also assist in disseminating this info.

Business Matters:

High Holiday Cantor: Cantor Butensky has signed an agreement with the synagogue at the same fee we paid him last year. We welcome him back.

Nominating Committee: The Chair, Donna Berger did an excellent job leading this effort. The following Board members have submitted their names to return to their said positions: Charlie Frohman, Vice President; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Board of Trustee members: Lou Arab; Ed Mercel; Ron Van. New Board nominees: Gail Greenfield; Sherill Herzfeld; Stuart Rosenthal.

Gala: Saturday April 22. All Board members are requested to give Abby \$20 for a wine basket to be auctioned off. Neal requested that lagging Board members please step up to help support the Gala. Abby mentioned that "Presently our count is 55, but we anticipate more." "We have some spectacular auction items that were donated, and they are great to bid on, even if you are not attending." It's a lot of work and we have an amazing committee, a live and silent auction, live music, open bar, and an opportunity to share wonderful camaraderie.

Additional Programs: Yom Hashoah is not here but at The Jacksonville Jewish Center, Sunday afternoon, the 23rd, and we will also observe it Fri night. Also, on Wed, April 26th at 7pm, the FBI will be here to discuss "Hate Crimes in the community". It was suggested that we promulgate this information to churches and schools.

Bob Hersh Classic: Monday, May 15th at The Palencia Club. Neal mentioned that this golf outing is a great experience and a big fundraiser for our community. Please support it.

Annual Congregational Meeting: June 4th at 11:00 a.m. Ballots will be in the mail shortly, thanks to Cathy Winterfield, and there will be ample time for congregants to receive the information and return their ballots if they are not attending the

meeting. It should be noted that only current, up to date members will be mailed the ballot, this does not include associate members. Last year we had approximately 50-60 people attend. We will be serving bagels and coffee. We have a new maintenance person that starts April 25th.

Committee Reports:

Education: Report submitted and passed to members.

Facilities: There was a misunderstanding about the price of the repairs for the trailer. The expense incurred was \$1,185 to repair the perimeter of the trailer.

Sisterhood Report: Vickie reported that "all is good". Miriam's Seder was beautiful and successful, 55 people attended. The Belles Book club is May 18th, as well as Bunco in May.

Brotherhood Report: Rabbi's discussion and dinner worked well and an interesting conversation was had by all.

New Business: Buzzy mentioned that the freezer went out and we lost food. Gail Greenfield told Jacquie and Vickie. Buzzy was able to fix the freezer and it is now up and running. There was some discussion about the efficacy of the freezer, it doesn't drain and it runs over, in a sheet of ice or puddles. In the future, he wants a phone call day or night, 24/7, when an appliance is not working.

The disposal and ice maker under the sink have bad outlets. Right now they are not working.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be **Tuesday, May 23, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell