

Beth-El Board of Trustees

Meeting minutes January 17, 2017

Present: Neal Goldman, Abby Steele, Chip Morris, Vickie Kennedy, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Ed Mercel, Cathy Winterfield, Donne Ordile, Randy Levinson, MG Orender, Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, 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 December Minutes: The December 2016 minutes were unanimously approved and accepted as written.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi was not able to attend so there was no D'var Torah.

President: Neal commented that everything is going well and we "should keep doing what we're doing".

Treasurer's report: One family membership this month. The Board approved and welcomed Michael Overstreet and his family as new members. Chip handed out a Cash Flow sheet and mentioned that we are running \$8,000 behind on anticipated collected revenue with the addition of \$9,000, annually going out the door for security, although currently positive in cash flow. Since we haven't had our fundraisers, we need to consider that the net profit from the Hanukkah dinner was not posted and that needs to be factored in. Neal questioned the postage and printing expenses that seemed out of line and more than usual. He asked for that to be re-evaluated. MG inquired about dues and that High Holiday revenue appeared to be lower than last year. Neal then inquired about where we stand with members' dues and requested that the membership committee get in touch with the 30 members in question. Cathy will follow-up and play a role in asking. Additional discussion occurred concerning repairs & maintenance. Neal mentioned that we have a budgeted maintenance reserve for unexpected expenses, such as the mold remediation, that is not reflected in the budgetary monthly cash flow report handed-out to the Board. Perhaps it should be included as an additional line item.

Business Matters:

Cantor: Neal asked for feedback on Cantor Riselle Bain visit; it was generally positive. The Cantor brings a warmth and energy, uses bongo drums and a tambourine. She is welcoming to the B'nai Mitzvah kids' participation. She presently lives in Bradenton and leads services in a Sebring synagogue every other Friday. The congregation there is very small. Presently we pay her \$150 for a service, plus travel expenses. She knows Torah trope, and has a very friendly affect. Neal is interested in the Board's feedback prior to her returning for future services.

Facility Fees: The facilities Fees Schedule was finalized and approved by the Board.

School Building: Minor progress on the new school building this month. Neal passed around projected images submitted by architect Nicholas Renard, of both the exterior and interior of the building.

Security: The Board discussed whether we should hire a private service or continue to use the off-duty St. Johns County Sheriffs for security. The volunteers that "moonlight" request cash payment and there have been issues of reliability. Jacquie researched armed private security services where the cost is \$17-22 an hour. Ron was not keen on using this type service as he speculated that some folks were of questionable competence, and both he and Ed have seen them at shooting ranges and they are poor marksmen. Cathy mentioned that there are other congregations facing the same dilemma and suggested that "having a marked car is a strong deterrent in itself". She will recommend and provide some names for Jacquie to continue researching our options.

Gala: Abby & Rachel reported that the Gala date is April 22 and will have a masquerade theme. Different individuals will be chairing sub committees. Cathy will oversee the food and beverages; Sheryl Hertz will send out the *Save the Date*. Another meeting will be held at Panera's for planning the event. Rachel asked that each Board of Trustee fill a table by asking friends and family to join us. It will be a sit-down formal meal, with a silent and live auction, and music.

Committee Reports:

Education: Submitted by acting chairman Charlie Frohman. The Hanukah dinner was a success and they made over \$1,200. The Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo night is on track. It will be catered by Al's Pizza.

Ways and Means: Randi handed out a spread sheet listing eight revenue producing fundraisers. *Membership Directory*- Randy commended Sherry Chait stating that she did an "excellent job raising more money than last year". *Golf Tournament* - should generate a profit of at least 15k, as noted by MG. *Corned Beef Sandwich Sale*- the price of the sandwich will now be \$12. *Passover Seder*- Marty is speaking to The Plantation, however we may not have as many people attending this year, as it is a weeknight. Vickie inquired about The Shalom Club and their Passover Seder; does not appear to be much synergy for us to consider their participation. *Lip Sync*-scheduled for March 5th. Beth El needs to work together and support this event. It should be a lot of fun. *Gala/Night of Giving*- April 22, masquerade party!

Membership: February 3 is the next Shabbat Dinner, expecting 25-30 people.

Adult Education: No report

Sisterhood Report: Vickie reported that all is good with vibrant active members leading different events. Denice-Lip Sync; Gail G-The Tu B'Shevat Seder on 2/9. The game night was a "fun and vivacious way" for 35 members to get together. They delivered food to Jacksonville Beach Fire and Rescue on the 24th and they were very appreciative. The Sisterhood Shabbat is scheduled for 2/24. Vickie also mentioned that a new member of the synagogue receives a first-year complimentary Sisterhood membership.

Brotherhood Report: No report

New Business:

Buzzy brought-up that we should start working on the Nominating Committee.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell