

## **Beth-El Board of Trustees**

### **Meeting minutes March 28, 2017**

**Present:** Neal Goldman, Abby Steele, M.G. Orender, Chip Morris, Charlie Frohman, Vickie Kennedy, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Ed Mercel, Cathy Winterfield, Donne Ordile, Rachel Marcus-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 February Minutes:** The February 2017 minutes were unanimously approved and accepted as written.

**D'var Torah:** The Rabbi passed out a quote from the Torah and noted that the olive at the end of a word is always smaller. It means G-d called and spoke in a small soft voice. The Rabbi worries about us and prays that we are able to silence the noise within ourselves. We need to be mindful of the present and pay attention to the smaller things. He spoke softly and wished quiet for us inside and outside of our lives, and suggests we take time for ourselves.

**President:** Neal called to everyone's attention that we are "the Synagogue's leadership". He asked that we continue to stay on topic as leaders of our community. "Everyone needs to be focused, positive and upbeat." He also expressed appreciation for everyone's work regarding fundraising efforts.

**Treasurer's report:** Chip introduced a new associate member, Jackie Gould. She was approved by the Board conditionally, pending verification of full membership in another synagogue. Chip then presented a P & L Actual vs Budget as of 8 months ending March 27, 2017. He indicated that we are in "crunch time" and that pending the success of the next three major fundraisers, we should be in a little better situation. The cash flow is considerably different because we incurred two new line items: Security, and the preliminary expense for the school building. There was discussion about credit cards, the percentage incurred when using it, either through merchant services or on line Pay Pal. M.G. asked how much we

take in credit cards, the answer was unclear. The Finance Committee would like to charge a fee for using credit cards. They are seeking Board approval. A motion was made and seconded for Approval to charge a credit card processing fee when someone uses this form of payment. The Board approved the motion. Charlie Frohman will look into using Cosco, suggested by Ordile, for merchant services.

### **Business Matters:**

**Security:** We have stopped using the St John's Sheriff's office and decided to use EB Security. They will have a marked car, lights, and carry a stun gun. The hourly rate is \$19 an hour for a four hour shift. We are anticipating 76 shifts. This will save us approximately \$4,000 a year.

**HH Cantor:** It was the consensus of the Worship Committee that we retain Rabbi Butensky for the High Holidays. He has agreed to the same remuneration as last year. A motion by Buzzy to retain Rabbi Butensky was seconded and approved.

**School Building Plans:** We are looking at 2/3 contractors to work with us to get a realistic projection as to the cost of the school building. MG is helping in this process. Neal mentioned that he will first appoint a "small committee to assess what is feasible". Next we would have a larger committee to work on the fund development.

### **Upcoming Fundraising Events:**

**Corned Beef Sale: March 30-31.** The sales have been lagging so the committee lowered their expectation from 900 sandwiches to 830. The hope is that we net \$6,300.

**Passover Seder: April 11.** Fairly decent response with more than 30 people attending at the Plantation.

**Gala: April 22.** The invitations came late in the mail. The response has been low, but expect more to respond. Abby thanked Charlie and MG for their contributions to the silent auction. There will be continual email blasts, both to the congregants and the school parents, promoting the event. She also pointed out that "outside in the lobby is art for purchase" at the silent auction. There are

many creative women working hard to make this event a success, and we need all Board members to participate and support us.

**Bylaws:** The Proposed Bylaw Amendments was presented by Cathy Winterfield. She mentioned that they have been “tweaked” over the years. Cathy thanked the Board members that sat on the Bylaw committee. The Board reviewed the proposed amendments and each one was voted on separately and subsequently approved unanimously with the exception of Article XV-one dissenting vote. The following Articles were voted on: Article VI, Section 1, Section 4; Article VII, Section 7; Article VIII, Section 1, Section 3, Section 8; Article IX; Article XII, Section 1; Article XIII, Section 1; Article XV, Section 2 (1 objection); Article XXIII, Section 4. There was much discussion by the Board regarding the new Amendments. The Board will present for approval the amended Bylaws to the full congregation at the next Congregational meeting. Discussion regarding poor attendance at last year’s meeting was also addressed. The Board reviewed different venues for engaging more participation of congregants, via email, postal service, and the Congregational meeting at large.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education:** No report

**Adult Education:** No report

**Sisterhood Report:** Vickie reported that 45 people attended Miriam’s Seder. They are working on a new Sisterhood calendar, and need to gather some volunteers to polish silver for the High Holidays. She asked for support and assistance with clean-up and set-up for the Onegs.

**Brotherhood Report:** Rabbi’s discussion and dinner worked well and inspired lively conversation.

**Ways and Means:** No report

**Membership:** No Report

**New Business:** Buzzy talked about the Education trailer and the concerns regarding the skirting around the building. It is in terrible shape and needs to be repaired. Cost and types of repair were discussed and it was decided that hardware cloth material repairing certain areas will temporarily work. The cost will be approximately \$250.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell