

Beth-El Board of Trustees

Meeting minutes May 23, 2017

Present: Neal Goldman, Abby Steele, Chip Morris, Charlie Frohman, Vickie Kennedy, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Marty Siegal, David Marco, 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 April Minutes: The April 2017 minutes were unanimously approved and accepted as written.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi discussed *The Book of Numbers*, in the Torah, also known as "In the Wilderness". Every ten miles they would stop and take a count. As they come to the middle of the journey everything goes wrong, and it's very, very difficult. They've come too far to go back. Moses felt betrayed. The question is "What is it that sustains them, it's a wild place". This also represents a spiritual journey, and eventually the people begin to pair-up and develop relationships, they kept it together and supported each other. The Rabbi then shared a thank you note from someone passing through town and came to services for Yertzeit. "I wish for us that Beth-El be a Place for us, that you will be safe and that it be a place for refuge."

President: As we are winding down the congregational year, let's keep it positive, we are all doing well. I appreciate everyone's hard work. Thank you.

Treasurer's report: Chip reported that there are two new members this month: One associate member, Laurie Simmons and Michelle Yergin as a single member. Michelle is a grandmother of several children in Hebrew School. The Board approved accepting the new members. Chip commented that the fundraising efforts since our last meeting were very successful. He forecasted, conservatively, that we wouldn't meet our anticipated budget. He is showing a loss of \$11k, potentially increasing to \$29k (note: later analysis confirmed the \$11k number).

This is as a result of \$8,300 for preliminary drawings for the school, and \$4,000 for unexpected security, all of which were not in the original budget.

We also have outstanding membership dues amounting to \$30,000. Marty asked how are we reaching out to these people? The Bookkeeper will be calling and reaching out to members regarding their delinquent dues. Neal also commented that we will be contacting certain people to help off-set our deficit. These are people who indicated their desire to be supportive. Neal pointed out that the age of the facility has ongoing incurred costs going forward.

Chip looked at the actual membership trying to pinpoint attrition, passed away, moved, dropped out, and more members on financial assistance. Each of the dues level has been increased for next year. A dues structure of approximately \$250 per membership, pro-rated by dollar level will be levied.

The Rabbi asked "if the deficit were erased and a there was a modest increase of membership, how would we look at the next fiscal year? Would we be solvent?" The response was yes. We are projecting that we have an operating budget of \$314,000.00. A question arose "what percent is covered by membership and what percent is covered by fundraising? Marty feels we have got to do a better job fundraising, and the chair of the "Ways and Means" needs to get a committee together to address this fundraising. Rachel suggested that we have an over-arching fund development plan that includes events and other venues for revenue. Move to approve the budget as presented by Chip accepted unanimously.

New Business Matters:

Buzzy commented that we need pictures to portray our history, past leadership, Rabbi's, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, Boards. He volunteered to do this and select someone to help.

Gala: Saturday April 22, was a huge success. We raised total revenue of \$27,400, expenses \$5,632, net was \$21,768, to date. Abby reported "For next year we want to repurpose what we have already purchased, host it at the Synagogue, and the theme will be "Cirque du Soleil". " It is projected for March 10th.

Bob Hersh Golf Classic: We raised \$14,000, net, meeting the budget.

Annual Congregational Meeting: It is June 4th at 11:00 a.m. Charlie will pick –up the bagels and cream cheese. We received a quorum from the Ballots we received in the mail. Total received 40.

Committee Reports:

Education: Report submitted and passed to members.

Facilities: No report

Sisterhood Report: Vickie reported that “we had our Belle’s Book Group and it’s doing well. Two picnic tables were purchased and will ready for the fall. Hannah Moore is now running the Gift Shop.

Brotherhood Report: Rabbi’s discussion and dinner worked well and an interesting conversation was had by all. Charlie discussed an intention for Brotherhood to host a monthly networking breakfast, open to all members.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be **Thursday, June 22, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell