

## **Beth El Board of Trustees**

### **Meeting Minutes May 10, 2018**

**Members Present:** Abby Steele, President; Neal Goldman, Past President; Cathy Winterfield, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Vickie Kennedy, Sisterhood; Stuart Rosenthal, Tracy Aquila, Ron Van, David Marco, Donne Ordile.

Rabbi Matuson was in attendance. Jacquie Sinder, Executive Director was in attendance.

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

**Approval of March and April Minutes:** Both the March 8, 2018 and April 10, 2018 minutes were approved and accepted, as there was no quorum established at the March meeting.

**D'var Torah:** There are portions of the Torah that only the Rabbi can read, because they are horrific curses. "But tantamount to this is also the concept of gossip. It is deception, spread by people practicing self-deception. The antidote to deception is to overcome self-deception. I think Judaism is a remarkable religion because we are always trying to understand ourselves, in truth and honesty. What is it we believe and why we want to believe that. If we can answer that question we come closer to understanding our true self. Tikkun olam, first fix yourself." As stated by Rabbi Matuson.

**President's message:** A warm welcome from Abby Steele, President of the Board. I try to be as transparent as possible, so when there are conversations in this room, it has to stay in this room. We all work really well together, but we need to be aware of negative chatter that tends to come back to us in the most unusual ways. My request is to speak those things that are true, and keep gossip to a minimum. Please keep what is said in our meeting confidential and do not take information discussed in our meeting outside this Board room.

Chip received an email from Buzzy Klausner, requesting that he read it out loud at the Board meeting as he was unable to be here to do so himself. Chip then proceeded to read the letter to the Board. To condense Buzzy's concerns, he doesn't feel that the Synagogue budget is in good shape and thinks we should not tell people it is. He is upset that there have been maintenance expenses incurred by the Synagogue, when in the past, he personally took care of these things for free. He has been offended by these actions, frustrated that he no longer has a code and cannot open and close the Synagogue for various volunteer efforts. He pointed out numerous problem areas in and around the Synagogue that need to be fixed

There was discussion about Buzzy's letter, recognition of his importance to the congregation, his past support of the Synagogue, and his concerns. "This is another example of chatter outside this Board Room" said Abby. She then spoke to the Board about her concerns and "the other side of the story". There was some discussion about

entitlement, both from longtime members and Board members. The bottom line is that Buzzy is upset, and the Board respects him and values all his selfless contributions in the past. Many Board members expressed their desire to express to him our appreciation and respect and we are sorry if we offended him.

It was decided that Abby, with Chip's input, will write him a letter and respond to him in a positive and respectful way.

**Treasurer:** Chip announced that Kristin Cook applied as a new single member. There was a motion to approve, and seconded; she was unanimously approved. We welcome her to our congregation. Chip then passed out the full financial Budget vs Actuals from July 2017- July 2018. He acknowledged that we have an anticipated net surplus of \$30,000, at the end of this fiscal year. The School budget is based on static enrollment, not projecting any gain or attrition. The Synagogue budget for next year does not reflect growth in membership. The membership to date is about 155.

Chip presented several dues fee structure levels to increase the membership fees. There was much discussion prior to voting on new dues and the new budget.

A motion, by Neal was then made to accept seven due fee structure levels as presented. Associate fee will go from \$750 to \$775; the Single membership from \$1550-\$1595; the Family Basic Membership from \$2260-\$2350; Single Donor from \$2260-2350; Family Donor Contributor, \$4400-\$4600; Patron \$6400-\$6700. The motion was seconded and approved with one vote of disapproval.

The following motions were presented by the Board at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Since there was not a quorum, they needed to be voted upon at this meeting.

1-Raise the school tuition from \$720-\$750. This is effective for Fiscal year 7/1/18-6/30/19. Raise the B'nai Mitzvah fee to \$975. The motion was unanimously approved.

2-Change the structure of the nonmember, single school year tuition, to allow for the differential payment made between the single year nonmember and regular member school tuition to be applied to the first year synagogue membership dues if the nonmember decides to join Beth El within the next school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

3-Allow the single year nonmember tuition dues to be applied to new students entering third grade. (The current policy is second grade). The motion was unanimously approved.

Chip will be presenting the full Budget for the next Fiscal year to the Congregational Meeting in June meeting.

## **Business Matters:**

### **Board Committee Chair Reports and New Business:**

**Nomination Committee-** Neal reported that we had more nominees than positions. The committee was very professional, but unfortunately we could not take everybody. The following are the recommendations for the new Board: Charlie Frohman, President-Elect; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; returning Board members Donne Ordile and David Marco, New Board members Grace Belkin, Judy

DeArman and Ron Rappaport. Letters were sent out to all the congregants prior to a month's time, and the meeting is set for June 6<sup>th</sup>

**High Holiday Cantor-** Cantor Butensky will be returning for all of the High Holidays. A motion was made that we approve having Cantor Butensky back for the High Holidays. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Sisterhood-** Vickie reported that Bobby Adler agreed to co-chairing the Presidency for Sisterhood. The school children have chosen to donate their Tzedakah money to the 88 Holocaust Survivors living below poverty level here in Jacksonville.

**Brotherhood** – Reported by Ron Van. There was a cookout, for the Religious School and the following people participated: Ed Mercel, Ron Rappaport, Marcia Cohen, Paula Klausner, Danny Cohen, Adam Canada, and Bobby Adler. Danny ran out to buy all the items that were missing. Fortunately, it did not rain and it was a great success.

**New Business:**

**Congregational Meeting- June 6<sup>th</sup>.** A letter to the Congregation and a ballot with all nominees will be in the mail 30 days prior to the meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board will be, June 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell*

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary