

Beth El Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes November 15, 2018

Members Present: Neal Goldman, Immediate Past President; Charlie Frohman, President-Elect; Karen Toker, Vice President; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Grace Belkin, Ron Van, Donne Ordile, Ron Rapaport, Vickie Kennedy.

Rabbi Matuson was in attendance as was Elissa Feldman, Office Manager.

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Charlie Frohman.

Approval of October 2018 Minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously. Karen suggested that in the future, the committee reports be included in the minutes.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson addressed the Board: This week's Torah portion is about Jacob. Most of his life was a failure. What we learn from his story is his most important attribute. His resilience to failure. He did not let failure get him down. It did not preclude him from progress and learning. Admire people who lead and recognize that they may make mistakes. Resilience to rebound from failure is important. Genuine leaders acknowledge their mistakes and find strength to continue. Don't be afraid to fail. Beth-El leadership has demonstrated resilience.

President-Elect's Message: Charlie Frohman, President-Elect of the Board, commented that he thinks things are half full, not half empty. He expressed his gratefulness to be at Beth-El. He enjoys being on good terms with all the Board members and wants to continue to be on good terms with everyone moving forward.

Treasurer: Chip reported one new member: Lorraine Jenkins, Single membership The Board voted and she was unanimously approved. Welcome! To date, we have approximately 156 memberships.

Chip passed out the financial Budget vs Actuals: FY 2017-2018, July-October 2018. Thus far, we have spent less this year, however we need to evaluate our security line item as it does not reflect our present need.

Business:

School /Synagogue Security – Donne, as Education Chair wished to bring up what the School has done regarding security and also future needs and concerns. Neal Goldman discussed his recent meetings with the Sheriff's office and gave some historical background to the new Board members as to why we use a private security company as opposed to the St. John's Sheriff's Office.

Since the recent massacre at the Pittsburg Synagogue, many parents and congregants have been very concerned. The Sheriff's office responded to Neal initially indicating that they cannot accommodate us with our ongoing need for security. He then was approached by a member, David Schachnovsky who has a security background and is

on an advisory council for the Sheriff. At one of their scheduled meetings, he had a long conversation with the lieutenant that covers NE St John's county and he agreed to guarantee coverage for Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. No coverage for Sunday mornings due to the large number of church services going on concurrently. We need to evaluate if we need one armed guard or two and look at the differential cost and what we can cover or need to seek financial coverage from our congregants.

Donne expressed that many parents from the school were very concerned about security. "We had a meeting the following Sunday after the Pittsburgh tragedy and developed a very loose policy to include Car tags, similar the Disabled Driver tags, to hang from your mirror. Each parent will get three car tags. The guard will look at the car, if a car doesn't have one, he will look at their driver's license and write their name down. It is another deterrent, it was an easy and quick thing to do. She also passed out one to each present Board member, and suggested we get them out to all congregants. Neal suggested we mail them out and print a different color every year. A lot of parents wanted two armed guards for Sunday. Charlie commended Donne for responding so quickly to a very real concern of the parents. David and Gill of "The Center", offered to assist us in sharing what they are doing.

There was much discussion about our needs for the School on Sunday, future events, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Ron Rappaport suggested we put together a "Security Committee" and as Neal suggested an over-arching plan. Whatever we decide tonight might be a stop gap measure, but we need to gather a lot of information from professionals. Rachel shared her experience at a NYC Synagogue and reinforced that it is a good idea to have a Security Committee that can evaluate unanticipated needs as well as develop an "over-arching plan". Neal said this is under the purview of the President to determine whether we have such a committee.

Neal mentioned that "if we vote for the Sheriff on Friday and Saturday, we need an additional \$3900 a year or approximately \$2300 for the rest of the fiscal year". Do we need to consider an assessment? Neal projected \$2500 to cover one armed Sheriff for Shabbat (Fri and Sat) and Sunday School with private security. There ensued additional discussion and weigh-in from Chip. Ron Van mentioned that there is Federal money available and we should take advantage of it. Ron will take the lead on this.

Donne expressed concern because there is so much going on each Sunday in the trailer and main building. The School parents want two armed guards. There was some talk about "Black Shirts" providing security from the Brotherhood.

A motion was made by Neal "That we engage for security coverage on Friday night and Saturday morning services from the St John's County Sheriff's Office. We also engage a private security company on Sunday School for two armed guards. And we do a one-time special security assessment for \$75 per member unit." Donne seconded it. Some discussion ensued about parental concerns, special assistance members and financial needs. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

Rachel asked how this would be communicated to the congregants and parents. A letter will be drafted and sent to the congregants informing them about the assessment and our desire to keep our congregation safe. Charlie said, "we are working on a comprehensive plan that will include many things".

Trailer (Education Center) – Update

Donne explained the problems and issues that need to be addressed. Jerry Chait will evaluate the problems and fix it if possible. Charlie will come back to the Board with an assessment and pricing.

Vice President, Sherill Herzfeld - She made the calendar password protected. Elissa is figuring out what it will be, and everyone will get it via email.

Board Committee Chair Reports:

Member Committee- See attached report. A 90-day Campaign Drive for new members, will begin in December through February. They will be sent a letter, news and nosh, info etc. The whole thing will cost \$200, which is in the budget will cover the onegs, shabbat, gifts, Challah, etc. We will create ways to honor new members. Joy Shultz has volunteered to assist in these.

Ways and Means- Gala theme is "Play it forward". It will have a game motif, held at Marsh Landing March 30th. Tracy and Sherill are working on it. They are looking for new people to join the committee.

Worship Committee – There will be the annual inter-faith service with Rev. Dr. Tom Walker and Palms Presbyterian on Friday Nov. 16. The Board was encouraged to attend. See attached report. Neal also raised the issue from the Worship Committee meeting in October as to whether we should or should not retain Cantor Butensky for another High Holiday Service, or search for another Cantor. Neal will bring the Board's sentiments back to the Worship committee to pursue and evaluate other Cantorial options.

Adult Education – Second Adult Ed, went well. There will be continuing enrichment programs.

Social Action – Has been very successful. We also have a new project for BEAM.

Archive – See attached from Karen Toker. If the Board wants something in the archives it needs to get to Karen.

Communication – Sherill reported that she sent Press Releases about the Rabbi's announcement that he will defer some of his salary once he receives Social Security, to paydown the Synagogue's mortgage. These were sent to the various TV stations and print media. She hasn't heard back from anyone yet.

Education – Donne indicated that we need restaurant gift cards, this evening, from the Board for the Hanukkah dinner basket. Many Board members donated.

Sisterhood – Vickie reported a fantastic Fashion show and kudos to Sherill for chairing the event. There was a color photo of the models in Shorelines.

Vases on the Bema have been redone, we are sponsoring the Sisterhood and School Hanukkah party. She thanked the Rabbi for an outstanding Solidarity service in addition

to the student led Shabbat service. The evening was replete with candles and balloons; it was very meaningful.

Brotherhood – Reported by Charlie, successful dinner with the Rabbi. Discussed perhaps offering time on a Sunday morning, looking to expand the membership. Ron R. commented that they will try to expand the membership and expand the group to attract younger men.

New Business:

Karen inquired “what ever happened about the microphone and proper amplification for the sound system in the sanctuary?”. Nothing has been addressed as yet.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be, December 13th, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee Name: Security

Committee Chairperson: Ronald Rapaport

Committee: Ronald Rapaport, Neal Goldman, Charles Frohman, Ron Van, Ed Mercel, David Schachnvosky, Vickie Kennedy

Date Committee Met: Initial meeting being planned

Progress to date:

- 1: Organized the membership of the security committee*
- 2: Met with United Alarm for a quote to update and improve security cameras around property*
- 3: Met with Jacksonville Jewish Center security team at their premises to observe their security procedures and arranged for JJC security team to come to Beth El*

and make suggestions to improve our security procedures.

4: Chairperson in the process of constructing a comprehensive agenda for our first meeting.

Membership Committee Report 12/10/18

▪*Date set for "Tell Me Why" series (conducted by Rabbi Matuson) answering questions, ie. What happens if there are not enough for a minyan....How to handle the "December Dilemma", all designed to attract interfaiths/unaffiliateds and making existing congregants....January 15th*

▪*New member Shabbat scheduled for 1/27/19, welcoming new members who have joined since 7/01/18 (thanks to Joy Shultz for handling)*

▪*News and Nosh (thanks to Ron Van for handling) to engage congregants* ▪*Nocatee pr still being pursued to address Shalom Club*

▪*Requesting committee chairs to introduce themselves to congregation via eblast*

▪*Birthday wishes for all via telephone or emails*

Committee Name: Social Action

Committee Chairperson: Tammy Shumer

Committee:

Tammy Shumer, Rachel Schare, Tris Barber, Elaine Wright, Jackie Gould, Pam Ervanian

Date Committee met: November 2018

Outcomes of meeting:

Jewish Family & Community services picked up 5 packed bags of condiments for the Block

Food Pantry. We plan to collect condiments for JFCS' food pantry until the end of December.

In addition to the condiments. Beth El Sisterhood collected comfort items (nonskid socks,

gloves, blankets, soup) for our local holocaust survivors. Thank you to Donna O'Steen from

JFCS for picking up the all the items we've collected.

Next month we will discuss January's social action project.

