

Beth El The Beaches Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes June 13, 2019

Members Present: Abby Steele, President, Charlie Frohman, Vice President; Neal Goldman, Immediate Past President; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Karen Toker, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; Tracy Aquila, Ron Rapaport, Ed Mercel, David Marco, Grace Belkin, Vickie Kennedy. Gary Herzfeld, incoming Treasurer.

Rabbi Matuson 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 May 9, 2019 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson began by teaching the Board about the week's longest Torah Parsha. In it is the prayer "May G-d bless us and keep us." It is said at every significant life cycle event. "The first part of the blessing is about material goods, may you have enough to live comfortably. The second one is about grace, love that is given, that may not even be deserved. Where you love someone not because of what they do, but because of who they are. The third one is about ourselves. Moves us from the outside to the inside. In 1979, there was an archeological find which found the oldest scrolls, older than the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is where they found this blessing. It is ancient but relevant even today. The holidays are approaching, and I think this is a really good time to say to all of you, that work so hard, that I pray that this Shul is something that brings out joy in you."

President's Message: Abby explained how she came to Beth-El, and how glad she was to be close by and to have the Rabbi in leadership. When she came upon difficult circumstances, people were there for her in ways she never expected. "Then Marty Siegel asked her to come on the Board. We were trying hard to keep the lights on. Marty worked a lot, then Neal came in and continued the work", and then she stepped in as President. "It is not in spite of but because of what everybody does, that when we walk into the Synagogue all the love and care is present. I realize that I did these two years for a reason and will continue to be a participant for the following years.

I want to thank all of you for being there in so many ways, for the Synagogue, for the congregants and for me. I really appreciate it, thank you.”

Incoming President’s Message: Charlie expressed that he finds a warmth here that is very unique. He told a story about his son’s bris and how the Rabbi’s availability was misrepresented by a rumor he was told. And for a few years he felt distant from the Rabbi, until he finally came to Beth-El and felt what Abby just described, and it’s like coming home to family. “I made good friends, it is more intimate, and I find warmth here. I leave here at night and am happy to have been here sharing time with everyone. People like to come here and develop friendships; it is uniquely different here. It is our job to greet people that come to our Synagogue and make them feel welcome and have a wonderful life experience. So that’s our job, I am following Abby and Neal to continue to make our Temple stronger and better.”

Sherill, on behalf of the Board, thanked Abby for her Presidency and “has looked up to and admired you, so we’d like to give you a little something as our way of appreciation.” She then presented Abby with a glass gavel. Prosecco, cheese and crackers were then shared by all.

Treasurer: Chip announced that there are no new members this month. Membership is down to 166, as a result of a recent resignation. He then passed out the financial budget for FY 2018-2019, July 2018-May 2019. He discussed our actuals and is projecting ending the current fiscal year with a deficit of around \$5,000. “We still have uncollected dues, and we will be sending out statements in hopes of collecting the more money. It was noted that if everyone paid what they were supposed to pay, we would have a balanced budget. If we end in a deficit, we do still have money to pay to operate and pay people. We have built up a cushion the last two years, so we should be fine.” The Board thanked Chip for his hard work as Treasurer.

New Business:

Policy & Procedure Manual – Rachel recognized everyone’s contribution to the P & P Manual, past and present. The Security Manual was passed and is officially in the manual. Karen, then reported that “we will vote on policies like Finance, Worship, House, and Education by the New Board. The Liaison Committee submitted a description but since no actual policy was submitted to date, we don’t have to vote on it. We edited and changed the manual as needed, which includes changing the name of the Executive

Assistant to Administrative Assistant, First and Second Vice President changed to Vice President, and the Catering Policy incorporated.” A motion was made to approve the whole package of the Policy & Procedure Manual with the changes as of today. It was unanimously approved.

Beth El Presidential Plaque – Karen gave an overarching summation of the plaque, to start documenting our history. The Board requested that the committee enlarge the Plaque to 22”x33” with 2”x4” brass plaques for each President. We are looking at a custom walnut with bronze plates for around \$1400. The Board approved \$1500 at the last meeting. Including shipping, etc, we received an estimate of \$17,075. Charlie knows a person that does plaques. The difference is that the first bid includes customizing our plaque and they came back with an estimate of \$1340, including shipping. It is recommended to the Board, and although it does not have to be approved Karen felt like it was appropriate to address since there was an alternate option by Charlie. There was much discussion about customization, size, and price. Sherill also pointed out that this was already approved by the Board and the committee has spent a lot of time on this project. Charlie made a motion “to take what was approved and designed by the Board and acquire something very similar at a lower cost.” It was seconded. There were two in favor, 8 opposed, 4 abstained. Nays have it and it will be purchased after July 1st.

Mortgage Initiative and Commitment - Charlie asked that everyone on the Board please make their commitment to contributing to pay down the mortgage. “One thing is critical, as we seek donors to make certain that we have 100% participation by the Board. This is what we want to do for this place, to make it permanent. New Board members will also be asked to participate.”

Board Committee Chair Reports:

Security Committee – Ron presented there is a groundswell to get an AED in the Synagogue. Perhaps we can try a FB donation request? The cost is around \$1500. Vickie suggested that we put it in the eBlast. Sherill will have to research it to see what the fees are. Charlie offered to get a complete package to Ron, since he has a contact, and see if he can get a good price.

Membership Committee – Grace submitted a report, see attached.

New member Shabbat is scheduled for 9/6. We have 13 new members that have joined. She asked the Board that if we have any new activities planned to please let her know as she would like to invite nonmembers to join these events.

Sisterhood – Vickie reported that Sisterhood is getting ready for the New Year. Planning to see the Holocaust rescuers, July 21st at the Jewish Family Services. We also did some planting to continue to beautify the Synagogue. Vickie and Bobby will continue as Co-Presidents.

Brotherhood – Charlie had our first “Guns and Grub” event. It was a lot of fun. Dinner will be with the Rabbi next week. Abby asked about the new Brotherhood President, Charlie said he will have that for the next meeting.

New Business:

Supper Club - Ron asked for new faces to join the existing Supper Club scheduled for the following week.

JNN Calendar meeting- Sherill reported that we need to “please get our dates on the master calendar. We need the Gala and Celebrate the Seasons on there.”

Cary, from River Gardens, would like to work with us to coordinate Senior programs here and at River Gardens. It was discussed that it should fall under Adult Education.

Jewish Community Day- is asking every Synagogue to sponsor a table with arts and crafts for children. This is in partnership with the Cummer Museum. It is August 25, from 12-4pm. Elissa will put it in the eBlast.

Abby passed the gavel to Charlie.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be July 11, at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

Membership Committee Report 6/13/2019

Follow up and summary/reasons:

Of the 18 congregants who dropped out within the past 12 months:

- 4 didn't respond
- 1 I didn't contact
- 1 previous exit interviewed
- 4 will not rejoin (not conservative enough, too small,
too far x2)
- 4 possible very longshots
- 1 wants to donate only
- 1 marriage (to another congregant)
 - 1 moved
 - 1 passed away

discussing inviting non-members to Adult Ed's Hebrew lessons prior to the High Holidays....hoping to create atmosphere conducive to joining...in worst case maybe get HH ticket sales leading to joining hopefully

constant contact with potential members

Respectively submitted by Ginger/Joyce/Gina in lieu of Grace