

Beth El The Beaches Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020

Members Present: Charlie Frohman, President; Sherill Herzfeld, Vice President; Tracy Aquila, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary; Gary Herzfeld, Treasurer; Abby Steele, Past President; Ron Rapaport, Buzzy Klausner, Ron Van, Chip Morris, Grace Belkin, David Adler, David Marco, MG Orender, Donne Ordile, Neal Goldman, Vickie Kennedy.

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

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Charlie Frohman, President. Because of the quarantine, the Board meeting was conducted through ZOOM.

Approval of the April 16, 2020 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Matuson discussed the Parsha about the Chronicle of Numbers. He mentioned that "Jewish people have an aversion to numbers". They counted by tribes, clans, "but the reason why there was a problem is because Jewish people have a healthy respect for individuals. I think a lot of people join the Synagogue because they don't want to be just a number but wish to be recognized as an individual. That's why it is difficult to be a leader of a Synagogue or the country for that matter." When we reflect to the loss of over 90,000 people who have lost their lives to the Corona virus we need to remember that each one of those people counted, individually. The Rabbi then said a prayer for our loss and community.

President's Message: Charlie remarked that we have continued to provide some amazing programs and services throughout the "shelter in place" order. Friday nights are very well attended and Saturday's Shabbat service continues to grow. He thanked the Rabbi for his continued support and flexibility.

Treasurer: Gary reported that our membership numbers are now 164. We had a member die, one family member and one associate resigned. "We got the PP loan approved and funded for \$33,000. We are taking the steps to document the use of the fund's purpose so that we can convert the loan to a grant and not have to pay it back." These funds are in a separate

bank account. Last month he reported that “we were up to about \$22,000 short and now from a cash perspective, with this recent funding, by the end of June we should be about \$11,000 ahead.” Therefore, we need to move the pledge process to early June. We are working to simplify the pledge process and mail it out. “I will work with Elissa to mail it out early July.”

New Business:

Reopening Task Force Sherill reported that she and Vickie have been meeting on the phone daily, for the last 6-7 weeks with the other Jacksonville Jewish organizations and leaders. They realized that we need to have a plan for how we re-open Beth-El. She formed a committee that included herself, Vickie, Tracy and Howard Schere. We will not be responsible for dates when it should be opened.

PHASES TO RE-OPENING BETH EL

PHASE 1: - Bring our office staff back into Beth El building.

- All visits MUST be by appointment and set up in advance with Elissa - no exceptions. -
- Everyone entering building must wear a face mask. We will be purchasing disposable face masks for those visitors who do not have one.
- We will have a small bank of volunteers to do the following before anyone is to enter: Temperature check every visitor with a thermometer via the forehead. History check in accordance with the CDC questionnaire
- We will continue to Zoom Friday night and Saturday morning services
 - We will continue with Rabbi’s Thursday morning discussion group and Friday Torah study via Zoom.
- All Sisterhood and Brotherhood activities will still be banned - All meetings, committees and otherwise, will still be banned

PHASE 2: ***** All of PHASE 1 remains in effect. *****

- Begin Friday night and Saturday morning services at the Synagogue.
- Continue with the Zoom option temporarily.
- We will mark off 6ft distance on sanctuary pews in a staggered pattern between rows
- No members to sing or read responsively.
 - Members with disabilities or in need of assistance will utilize center aisle to access center aisle seating.
- All other members will utilize the far right and far left aisles to access seating
- The first row of sanctuary will be left blocked to protect both Laurie and Rabbi.
- The sanctuary will be dismissed by row.
- There will be NO Kiddush or Oneg.
- There will be NO borrowing of head coverings or prayer shawls.
- NO ONE will be allowed on the Bema other than the Rabbi and/or Laurie.
- Laurie will light the Shabbat candles.
- Rabbi will conduct the wine prayer.
- In lieu of having to clean prayer books, Beth El will create a Service book and photo-copy for all to use.

- Cleaning of the sanctuary will be conducted after Friday night service and Saturday morning service.

Sherill asked if we should clean the building more often than once a week if we open for services. Neal G. will join the committee and they plan to address High Holidays. Sherill then asked for questions. David Marco expressed concern about opening-up and discussed continued online classes, services, etc. Recently there was a spike of cases that suggests we proceed with caution.

There was some discussion about the Religious School but no date has been determined. Vickie said “The purpose of our Task Force is to be prepared but we are in a holding pattern of wait and see”. She said that Religious School usually starts when Public School begins.

Grace asked if we need to fashion a letter to keep current what this Task Force is discussing. Our congregants need to know how difficult it is for the Board in making these kinds of decisions.

Charlie offered to donate masks at cost to the Synagogue. MG offered touchless thermometers and antiviral sprays.

The Synagogue will have masks and disinfectant wipes.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Although initially slated for May 3rd, there ensued much discussion about how to conduct the meeting under the present “crisis”. It was decided that the safest approach for all concerned would be to have a mail-in ballot sent to members for Board nominees and approval. A letter will accompany the ballot and be sent to the Congregation explaining that due to this unprecedented time, we will not have an in-person meeting. Sherill will get an email out about the Task Force prior to the letter and ballot. Rachel suggested we “create a code whereby each name is associated with a number. That way all voting can be accounted for.” Charlie agreed to implement this.

As Secretary, Rachel will rework the letter, the Ballot and a short bio on each of the candidates. Abby will request bios from each candidate and send them to Rachel. There was some discussion about logistics, mailing, etc.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee – Abby reported that the Nominating Committee conducted three zoom interviews for at-large Board positions. Rachel is stepping down as Secretary, and to date, no one has submitted an interest in the position. Sherill is moving up to President Elect so that position is open. The following are the recommended candidates: Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Tammy Shumer, Ilyse Green and Michael Overstreet as general-at-large positions.

Education –Vickie reported outstanding work by the teachers at the school. They Zoomed, dropped off projects and worked at the student’s homes, teachers created virtual experiences, songs and the teachers really stepped up and did a beautiful job. One of the teachers offered to do a Zoom camp and we continue to keep our families connected.

Last Day of Religious School is May 3rd. The teachers continue to excel in reaching their students remotely and personally.

Ways and Means - Tracy mentioned that we need to think about “Celebrate the Seasons”. She will look into dates and creative outdoor options.

Sisterhood – Vickie reported sending out e-newsletters, Belles continues to meet via Zoom and there is a scheduled Shavuot program.

Brotherhood –Charlie offered to facilitate with David a Zoom dinner with the Rabbi.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be June 11th, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary

Committee Reports

No Committee Reports were submitted to the Secretary for this meeting.