**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**MINUTES**

**January 30, 2019**

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| **Trustees Present**: Jeff Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, Luke Duddridge, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis, Art Lorbeer, Michael Mandel, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Joanne Turnbull, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio) **Trustees Absent:** Ruth Rubin**Guest(s):** Jennifer Blazer |

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:03 p.m.

**Invocation:** Rabbi Karol led the Board in the invocation.

**Business:**

The Board had an extensive discussion about anticipated revenues and expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year, although changes could also affect future budgets. It appears that we will probably receive about $35,000 in dues for the period to June 30, 2018, and another $25,000 will come via profits from the Night At The Auction ($7,630 in profits) and JFFF (perhaps $12,000 in profits), and from grant funding received from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. The Board reviewed charts showing monthly and periodic expenditures and concluded that the Temple might spend $75,000 by June 30, 2019. Although the apparent shortfall can be addressed this year through the $20,000 transferred from the Merrill Lynch account, the longer term trend must be addressed, and we need to begin achieving a better budget balance now.

Members discussed a number of options to reduce spending. The Board also determined that dues and overdue dues need to be reviewed. An ad hoc utilities committee could find cost savings. Joanne Turnbull urged that members continue to seek ways to augment revenues, with possible routes including endowment contributions, renting space to other users, and scheduling more fund raising events. Michael Mandel, Jennifer Blazer and Dee Cook provided budget statistics.

Luke Duddridge moved to adopt the following measure, with Pearie Bruder seconding the motion:

1. Stop hiring exterminators. Dave Decker will take care of this task for now on a voluntary basis. There will be some materials costs.
2. Eliminate hiring American Linen to clean mats.
3. Checking to see whether Century Link or Xfinity can provide free computer licenses. Pearie will see if there can be special rates for religious institutions.
4. Stop placing TBE ads in the weekly Las Cruces Bulletin, which costs $138 per month, but place a less expensive ad in the annual Life is Good Publication.
5. Art Lorbeer will establish an ad hoc utilities committee to explore more economical usage of electricity and water. He may seek energy efficiency advice from the power company or other sources.
6. The Dues Committee will meet before the February 21 meeting to review dues and overdue dues, and will make recommendations to the Board especially in regard to members who do not pay dues commitments.
7. We will explore additional fund raising sources such as renting space. Art Lorbeer and Elliot Katz will be asked to report at the next Board meeting.
8. President Ellen Torres will draft a letter by February 21 that will ask TBE members for one time support for expenditures such as hiring off-duty police personnel for security needs. Pearie offered to pay for the stamps.

The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion noted that the expenditures reductions listed above might save $2,000 to $3,000 per year. The Rabbi asked Board members to keep in mind the possible costs of a future search committee. Ned Rubin asked that future budgets include a line item for security needs beyond the budget line for our building’s alarm system. Diane Fleishman and Jeff Brown called for future TBE budgets to base expenditures upon realistic budget estimates. Ned will continue to speak with the Dona Ana County Sheriff’s Office about security needs, and Mark Saltman will speak with the Las Cruces Police Department. Michael Mandel asked the Board to continue to review all possible fund raising endeavors.

President Ellen asked members to review possible revisions for the mission statement that Joanne Turnbulll had developed. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Date of Next Executive Committee Meeting**: **Monday, February 4** @ 6:00 p.m. at Temple.

**Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting**: **Thursday, February 21** @ 7:00 p.m. at Temple.

**Future Dates: Executive Committee on Mondays**: March 4, April 8, May 6

**Future Dates: Board of Trustees on Thursdays**: March 21; April 18

**Date of Annual Meeting**: Thursday, May 9

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown