**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

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

**MINUTES**

**June 19, 2019**

|  |
| --- |
| **Trustees Present**: Cheryl Decker, Dave Decker, Dee Cook, Michael Mandel, Martha Roditti, Nan Rubin, Steve Haydu, Ruth Rubin, Pearie Bruder, Barbara Berger, Rabbi Larry Karol, ex-officio.**Trustees Absent**: Luke Duddridge, Joanne Turnbull, Lynn Zeemont |

**Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Decker at 7:00pm.

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

**2 Items were moved up in the Agenda** to facilitate the rest of the meeting.

**Introductions** of new board members were done: Barbara Berger, Steven Haydu, Martha Roditti, and Nan Rubin.

**Presentation by Jim Rosenthal** on behalf of the Nominating committee:

There will be a Board Orientation in September, we need to determine the date, 8, 15, 22.

Jim also asked if we had ideas for topics that would be beneficial to board members and congregants, along the lines of last year’s leadership series.

It seemed that Jim was also asking if there were particular notions that we’d like addressed at the orientation. Several board members offered suggestions, and more will be generated over the next month or so. Examples so far: a) Nan asked asked to know about the congregations biggest controversies and whether they were addressed or not. b) Barbara suggested looking at our shared values as Jews and Reform Jews. Rabbi added to this, commenting on his classes looking at moral questions/hot topics from a Jewish law perspective compared to contemporary legal and moral views. Rabbi added: What are the values and Jewish law regarding ‘hot topics’ moral questions, etc. and this can be discussed on its own without viewing it as political. c) Martha: what do we want this congregation to be, do we want to attract more people? New blood, or not. Jews and money, managing the fiscal challenges of the congregation. d)Nan: what is the changing role and image in the community. And has that changed over the years. e) Pearie: self-reflection, how do we see ourselves and how do others see us.

Pearie asked: will we be kept up on what the transition committee is doing. Cheryl answered that the transition report will be presented at the next meeting.

Joanne is heading up Transition committee, some discussion on verbiage > nominating committee, leadership committee, etc.

**Acceptance of Minutes**: Martha Roditti moved to accept the minutes, Michael Mandel seconded, it passed unanimously.

**President’s report**

Cheryl passed out several documents: Group norms; contact info; board member responsibilities and an email by Alison Mann. Regarding Alison Mann’s email- Rabbi corrected her reference to Lay Rabbi’s, that they are actually Rabbinic Aides. A connection with the El Paso congregation is desired and we need more people to help. The Rabbinic Aides seem willing to help us out, either with training or leading worship services.

We need folks to step up for Onegs. Nan asked, What’s involved in doing an Oneg.

Steve suggested possibly make it a club, or have an Oneg training event periodically.

Barbara suggested assigning months. Using lists, texting, etc.

Someone suggested resurrecting the phone tree, through sisterhood or board.

Cheryl wound up her report near the end of the meeting, thanking all the board members for returning, and/or joining the board for this year.

**Rabbi’s report**:

Rabbi Karol provided a copy of his report to all the board members. The Psalms study class is continuing through July, the Tanakh study group is studying the book of Nehemiah, Rabbi is keeping track of congregants who are in rehabilitation centers and in the hospital. Meetings continue with other Las Cruces clergy and an interreligious book study group. Rabbi participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day observance in El Paso and led a film screening at the temple of: “No Asylum: The Untold Chapte of Anne Frank’s Story.” The Rabbi’s report included a summary of how the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund has been used.

**Treasurer’s report:**

Michael passed out copies of the budget for FY20, as well as copies of how the money was expended for the past 2 years, showing decline in membership, while costs remained the same or increased.

**Committee Reports**

**Old Business**

Announcements sign-up sheet was passed around.

**New Business**

Martha Roditti regarding the Strategic Planning Committee: Martha provided a couple of handouts. She went to a committee meeting, at which they looked at a number of things. Martha requested that she, Nan and Joanne join the Strategic planning committee as board liaisons. She stressed the importance of rebuilding the community. 1. spiritual connectness, 2. Social connectness, 3. Community connectness, 4 connectness with the world. She requested feedback on the paperwork that she handed out. There was extensive discussion about this committee and the ideas mentioned. Pearie stated that she felt a little affronted by the plan as it inferred we didn't have the conditions we already do and are being enjoyed now. She said that it ignored all of the work that is done now to maintain the goals strategic committee is proposing need to be accomplished, and that there seems to be duplicative efforts. All the committees should be brought together to enlighten on what they / we do now. The committee seems to be trying to fix things that are not broken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Haydu