**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

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

**MINUTES**

**April 18, 2019**

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

**Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:02 p.m.

**Invocation:** Rabbi Karol led the Board in a group recitations invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes**: Jeff Brown moved to accept the minutes for the March 21 Board meeting. Michael Mandel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Guest Reports**: Allen Blum presented a draft budget for 2019-2020 that he had prepared in consultation with Michael Mandel. A final budget will be placed before the Board in June. Allen recommended that 5% of all Fair Share Dues in the future be placed in our Reserve. He recommended buying a copier rather than leasing one, and recommended reducing advertisements. He recommended finding someone in the Temple to take care of bookkeeping if possible. He projected that with a reduction in rabbinical costs during 2019-2020 and with success in fundraisers, the Temple might have a positive fiscal balance next year around $9,000. Art Lorbeer discussed reducing refrigerator usage. Joanne Turnbull suggested reminding members at the start of each year about their dues responsibilities. The Board discussed changes in membership as some members have moved, some have passed away, and some have left the Temple.

Patrick Quinn discussed the Transition Committee. A recent Gallup Poll indicates that many American religious groups have had declines in formal membership. However, New Mexico is currently a popular retirement destination, so perhaps we can add members. The Rabbi discussed his future half-time responsibilities as centering on education, worship and some community work, with lay members taking on some of his administrative responsibilities. The Board discussed preparing a FAQ document for the May 9 annual meeting.

**Rabbi’s Report**. The Rabbi gave an activities report to the Board. The Religious School will have three more class meetings this spring. He participated in a Beit Din conversion review in El Paso. He reported on his attendance at the CCAR meeting in Cincinnati.

**President’s Report**. President Ellen Torres asked Board members to help in publicizing and attending Julie Silver’s performance at TBE on May 15. Board members should greet the guests, help with ushering and bring refreshments. Ellen thanked everyone involved in the safety training workshop. She led the Board in discussing the agenda for the May 9 Annual Congregation Meeting. The Executive Committee will meet at her home on April 22 to prepare mailings to congregation members. The Board thanked Ellen for her dedicated service. She has been our President for three years.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Treasurer Michael Mandel provided an updated financial report and discussed dues issues.

**Adjournmen**t:

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

**Date of Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, April 22**, noon @ Ellen’s home.

**Date of Annual Congregation Meeting**: **Thursday, May 9**, 6:45 p.m. check-in, @ Temple

**Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, May 9,** Immediately after conclusion of the annual Congregational Meeting, @ Temple.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown

**Committee and Group Reports, April 18, 2019**

**Budget Committee,** Chair Allen Blum: At the present time TBE is faced with many issues surrounding operational concerns covering both Revenue and Expenses. As the Budget Committee works to develop a sound budget for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year, a revenue stream needs to be increased through congregants meeting their Fair Share Pledge obligations and donations; by being able to earmark additional monies for the Reserve Fund, especially now that the facility continues to age and replacements will necessary; and finally by examining ways to reduce operation expenses.

A draft Budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval during the Board Meeting in April.

**Building and Grounds**, co-chairs Jerry Silverman, Jeff Lewis, and Norm Mazer: The primary activity for March was preparing and submitting the 2019-2020 budget.  Schedules for testing the air conditioning and alarm systems were made for implementation in early April.

**Dues Committee**, Chair Michael Mandel: The Jewish Food Festival contributed greatly to our bottom line for this quarter although the final figures are not in QuickBooks yet. However, everyone has seen the gross income amounts from the committee. We are working through the membership and dues shortfall and we are also working to balance the books and look to the future. The quarterly report will be distributed to everyone online the day before the meeting so we get the most recent figures to work with.

**History Committee**, Co-Chairs Jeff Brown, Dee Cook, Linda Kruger, Susan Michelson, Nan Rubin: The Committee met to review the contents of two boxes of archived materials to see whether some should not be open to the public. A number of older newsletters from the NMSU Archives, primarily from the 1980s, were scanned.

**Mensch Club**, President, Dave Decker: The Club met on March 17, 2019. It developed a list of members who will augment Temple security from March 29 through April 26. It arranged a social event to honor spouses on April 14. It held a breakfast meeting at Ciro’s on March 22. The next meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on April 21.