

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: June 15, 2017

<p>Trustees Present: Allen Blum, Jeff Brown, Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis, Susan Michelson, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio) Trustees Absent: Ann Berkson, Dee Cook, Michael Lieberman Guest(s):</p>

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:06 pm.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol gave the Invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes. Ellen asked for acceptance of the minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting. Corrections were made to attendees as Renee Frank attended as a guest, Jeff Brown attended as a new Board member, and Erich Zameret was no longer a Board member and needed his name removed. A motion was made by Ned Rubin and seconded by Sue Brown to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Leadership / Board Reports

A. Rabbi's Report:

The Rabbi reported that he will be gone July 12-19 to NYC to visit his new grandson, and is planning a series of book reviews for later in the summer. We will be switching to the new High Holidays prayer books thanks to a donation of \$1500 to purchase the remainder that we need. Plans for the 2017-18 Religious School year are underway. He will be attending the NewCAJE Jewish Educators' Convention in Moraga, CA, on August 5-9 (with a Saturday service substitute). The Rabbi then gave an accounting of his discretionary fund. Some examples of how he uses his fund includes: support for Shabbat family dinners, food for holiday brunches or dinners (Chanukah, Rosh HaShanah, Simchat Torah, Tu B'Shvat Seder, Purim, Yom Ha'atzmaut); refreshments for various events; Bibles for Bar/Bat Mitzvah presentations from Temple; Hamentaschen baking and Mishloach Manot bags; flat screen TV for Temple; assistance for local individuals; and more. He noted that some individuals stopped by the Temple requesting help, and that he paid their rent directly to their landlords when needed. He also informed the Board that **Robyn Helzner** will be here the third Monday in January to give a presentation on Sephardic Jews.

B. President's Report.

President Ellen Torres welcomed the Board for the new fiscal year. She handed out information on developing group norms and distributed a set of norms that had been established last year. She asked the Trustees to reflect on and write down one norm that they felt was most important to them, and to turn them in on an index card she handed out. Then she read those norms and said she would type them up and bring them to the July meeting to review and approve. The two recurring norms were respect

for others and awareness of time. Responsibilities of Board members and contact information was also handed out. She thanked members who attended the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso Annual Meeting and Open House the previous evening, June 14, noting that 10 Temple leaders joined her in representing TBE. Ellen shared that she received a call from member Ruth Ann Sugarman who wanted the Board to do something for the Rabbi's new grandson, Joshua. The Board agreed to each chip in \$10, and therefore to send Adam & Juli Karol \$120 in the form of a gift card for baby Joshua. Ellen also shared that Dr. Dan Allan sent her information about Los Angeles's Leo Baeck Temple board who approved a proposal to declare their Temple a Sanctuary Congregation. The information will be discussed by Ned Rubin and the Social Action Committee, and they will get back to the Board about this. Ellen also needs to find an individual to take over as Adult Education Committee Chair as Rose Jacobs is stepping down after one year. Finally, Bob Kimball is stepping down as TBE Website facilitator, and Ellen asked Ned Rubin to take over. Ned said he will most likely take on the role and will get back to Ellen shortly about it.

C. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Allen Blum reported on the year-to date budget as of May 31 from which we may extrapolate the year-end figures, which will have about a \$5,000 deficit. The projected 2017-2018 budget has a \$14,000 deficit. A discussion followed about ways to reduce costs and the need for additional fundraisers. An E-Blast went out to remind folks that payments are due. Phone calls will be made to all members thanking members in good standing and requesting payment plans from those in arrears. Statements will be emailed starting this year, which will reduce postage. Allen also noted that the air conditioning should be lowered when the building is not in use, and he will investigate why we are paying \$40 a month to Dex. Our largest expenses are fixed so we must generate more income. He also said he would pay our URJ annual dues, which would remain the same as last year at about \$4,000. Allen presented the 2017-2018 Budget to the Board. A motion was made by Jeff Lewis and seconded by Sue Brown to approve the budget. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- A. Jeff Brown related the progress of the History Committee and submitted a written report.
- B. The Library Committee submitted a written report.
- C. The Cemetery Committee submitted a written report.

Old Business

- A. Policy for use of facilities--social hall and kitchen. The rental agreement and fees will be reviewed by the Board and Sisterhood Council. Tabled for July 2017 meeting.
- B. On-site Storage solutions were investigated by Jeff Lewis and Norm Mazer. Jeff presented several options: a shed built on site by members would cost about

\$1,200; one purchased from Home Depot would be about \$2,400. A motion was made to wait until the Fall to have shed built by members led by Art Lorbeer and David Decker. In addition, it was agreed that items currently being stored by the Zeemont's and Levys might have to be moved to either a local storage facility unit for a couple of months or to Board members' garages. A motion was made by Sue Brown and seconded by Susan Michelson to wait until fall to build the shed and to find a way to store the items until the shed was built. The motion carried.

New Business

- A. A motion was made by Jeff Lewis, and seconded by Sue Brown, to open Temple accounts at Staples and Office Max. The motion carried.
- B. Sue Brown made a motion that we continue our ad in the annual publication, *Life Is Good in Las Cruces* for \$195. It was seconded by Susan Michelson. The motion carried.

Guest Comments: No guests were present.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Date of next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, July 3, 2017 @ 6:30 pm

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, July 20, 2017 @ 7:00 pm