

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: February 16, 2017

Trustees Present: Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook, Renee Frank, Jeff Lewis, Michael Lieberman, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Allen Blum, Ann Berkson, Diane Fleishman, Susan Michelson, Ned Rubin, Erich Zameret.

Guest(s):

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 January 17, 2016 meeting. Michael Lieberman raised a question about the minutes under Old Business, item D. related to ADA compliance for the bathrooms. While it was determined that the bathrooms are in compliance with ADA standards, the minutes should reflect that the door tension to the bathrooms still needs to be adjusted to make them easier to maneuver. Pearie Bruder moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Sue Brown seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.

At the March 16 meeting, Michael requested a further correction to the minutes saying that adjusting the tension won't solve the problem, and that the only way to make the doors to the bathrooms easier to maneuver for wheelchair access is to automate the doors. He estimates it will cost \$1400 to automate each door. This item will be discussed at a future meeting. Ned Rubin moved to accept the minutes with these corrections, and Diane Fleishman seconded. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Leadership / Board Reports

A. **Rabbi's Report.** (Highlights) Complete report is attached.

1. Rabbi Karol reported that there has been great participation in the Wednesday meetings based on the book, WISE AGING. The last session is on March 8, and it is not too late to join in. Jeff Lewis said the sessions have been very valuable and encouraged everyone to join if they could.
2. There are five B'nai Mitzvah coming up before the end of the year.
3. The Rabbi continues to be active in community and interfaith activities, including helping to develop an interfaith statement entitled "Welcoming the Stranger," organizing and leading an interfaith prayer service at St. Albert the Great at Newman Parish, and being part of a Unity gathering at the Islamic Center.
4. His monthly article in the Las Cruces Bulletin focused on the American Values/Religious Voices campaign.

B. President's Report.

1. President Ellen Torres reported that attending the URJ's Scheidt Seminar for Temple Presidents was an unbelievable experience. She brought back a lot of materials, and will share as much as possible with everyone.
2. She mentioned the URJ Board training on May 7, with Jim Cherney of the URJ facilitating.
3. The conference focused on the importance of building Sacred Partnerships, a commitment to building and nurturing relationships that elevate the work of leadership to a level of holiness.

C. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Allen Blum was not able to attend, but provided a partial report indicating that although the financial reports show we are in the black year to date, projections indicate we could end up with a net operating loss. There was discussion about the level of reporting detail that would be most helpful to the Board. The consensus was that a full income/expense statement and balance sheet would be ideal to be presented each month.

Committee Reports: Only Committees with Reports Are Shown

- A. **Sisterhood Report** – Dee Cook, Sisterhood Representative. Dee Cook reported that the 2nd Seder will be on April 11 at Picacho Hills Country Club.
- B. **Mensch Club Report** – Jeff Lewis, Mensch Club Representative. Jeff Lewis reported that the Mensch Club will be sponsoring a "Bring Your Best Dish" event. They will charge admission, and people will bring a dish to share. Proceeds will go to TBE. He also reported that they are organizing a service for Temple members who need services such as home maintenance, shopping, etc.
- C. **Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee** – Ann Berkson, Chair.
- D. **Adult Education Committee** – Rose Jacobs, Chair.
- E. **Budget Committee** – Allen Blum, Chair.
- F. **Building and Grounds Committee** – Jerry Silverman/Norm Mazer/Jeff Lewis, Co-Chairs.
- G. **Cemetery Committee** – Diane Fleishman, Chair.
- H. **Dues Committee** – Michael Mandel, Chair.
- I. **Library Committee** – Linda Kruger, Chair.
- J. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee** – Allen Blum, Chair.
- K. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee** – Aggie Saltman, Chair.
- L. **Membership and Outreach Committee** – Diane Fleishman, Chair.
- M. **Nominating Committee** – Jim Rosenthal, Chair. The Nominating Committee has started meeting.
- N. **Religious Practices Committee** – Jeff Lewis, Chair.
- O. **Religious School Committee:** Pearie Bruder, Chair. Pearie Bruder reported that they will be baking hamentaschen & delivering Shalach manot baskets in celebration of Purim, with delivery planned for March 12. She mentioned that we need a central mechanism for checking dates for utilizing the kitchen to make sure there are no conflicts.
- P. **Security Management Committee** - Mark Saltman, Chair.
- Q. **Social Action Committee** - Ned Rubin, Chair.

1. At our latest social action committee meeting, we reviewed the current response to the 1st chavurah meeting, scheduled for Saturday evening, February 25th at Susan Fitzgerald's home. Please be sure to RSVP to Susan if you intend to participate.
 2. Briefly discussed the option of having a separate, small newsletter just from the social action committee, simply announcing the variety of the current, various participatory opportunities available in our community to save room in both the eBlast as well as the Adelante. These are not necessarily endorsed by the committee as much as for information and individual choices.
 3. Briefly discussed the potential for a panel or round-table or some other format for a presentation on some aspects of the Jewish ethical perspective on various medical decisions.
 4. Next meeting, for any interested, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30 pm at TBE.
- R. **Technology Committee – Dave Zeemont, Chair.**
- S. **Ways and Mean Committee – Lionel Jacobs, Chair.**
JFFF Committee meets on February 18th. Will be discussing entertainment options (grant money may be available to pay other entertainers), PayPal, how to estimate attendance, more seating, and updates on the new system of acquiring volunteers. Group bakes start 2/18 in the temple kitchen.
- T. **Youth Activities Committee: Julie Seton, Chair.**
1. Unfortunately, no BETY students attended the NFTY Winter Kallah in January.
 2. Three students are registered to attend the NFTY Social Action Weekend (SAW) in April. We are looking for scholarship support for them to attend.
 3. Andrea and Leora will be added as signatories to the BETY account at Citizens Bank –as soon as we are all available to meet together.
 4. Planning for the Purim Carnival is the high priority for the rest of February. We will be coordinating with Rabbi Karol as well as Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin to make the entire Purim experience fun and exciting for kids of EVERY age!
 5. Other activities that are being considered include the Las Cruces Clean Up Day in April, asking upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah families if the youth can support in any way, and coordinating with the JFFF organizers for support.

Old Business

- A. URJ Leadership Training Update— The URJ Leadership Training for the Board will be on May 7.
- B. Jewish Federation Grant Update— The Jewish Federation Grant funds are being used to bring in Rabbi Bob Alper, a comedian from Vermont, on August 25, 26, and 27; and Tina Wasserman, a Jewish culinary expert will be here on November 10, 11, and 12.
- C. History Committee Update— Jeff Brown has agreed to chair the TBE History Committee, which hasn't met for several years.
- D. Michael Lieberman followed up on a previous item of old business – the headsets for the hearing impaired. One headset has come in, and Michael is meeting with some of the hearing impaired congregants to show them how it works. He recommends a place be identified to store them, and a system be established for lending them out. One headset still needs to be purchased.
- E. Sign-ups for Board Announcements.

New Business

- A. Actions resulting from Committee Reports.
- B. On-site storage solutions—TBE has a need for additional storage. The Board is looking into the possibility of purchasing a storage shed for the grounds. Pearie

Bruder will talk with Jerry Silverman before the next Board meeting to get pricing for a storage shed.

- C. Procedure for use of social hall and kitchen. There is a need for a standard procedure for use of the social hall and kitchen. A point of contact needs to be identified. Several possibilities were considered, including designating the Vice President as the point of contact. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- D. Liaison to El Caldito for food donation deliveries. A process is needed to make regular deliveries of food brought in for donation to Casa De Peregrinos. The Board discussed several options. Specific proposals will be considered at the next meeting.

Guest Comments. There were no guest comments.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Adjourn:

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, March 6, 2017 @ 6:30 pm

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2017 @ 7:00pm, 3rd
Thursday