

Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

MINUTES

July 19, 2018

Trustees Present: Jeff Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis. (acting Mensch Club Representative), Michael Mandel, Ned Rubin, Ruth Rubin, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Sue Brown, Luke Duddridge, Joanne Turnbull

Guest(s): Linda Kruger, Dave Zeemont

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:07 pm.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol led the Board in the invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ned Rubin moved accepting the June 21, 2018 Board minutes, and Pearie Bruder seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi distributed a report about his activities. It will be printed in the Adelante. Rhonda Karol and the Rabbi will travel to Topeka, Kansas for Temple Beth Sholom's 90th Anniversary Gala Dinner on August 18, 2018. They will travel to New York City for the installation of their daughter-in-law Juli as assistant rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City on October 11-14.

- B. President's Report. President Ellen Torres discussed the adoption of norms for Board members' responsibilities and conduct. A synopsis of the norms submitted by Board members was distributed. Ned Rubin moved that the synopsis be adopted. Jeff Lewis seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Copies of the norms will be available at future Board meetings, and members were asked to bring their copies. Ellen reported that Temple fund raising efforts have brought pledges of \$3,118 so far to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. There will be a leadership orientation and dinner at Ellen's home at 5:00 pm, August 12. The Nominating Committee has planned three 2:00 pm hour-long training sessions for October 28 (defining spirituality), December 16 (leadership styles and skills) and February 10 (exploring our Temple). Future sessions will explore other topics. Board members should attend all sessions. Ellen noted that Verizon has not yet installed tower covers or begun providing monthly payments to TBE, but it has moved the port-a-potty from the shed area.

- C. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Michael Mandel discussed our budget. His handouts covered some areas of expenses, and members discussed cost cutting possibilities.

Committee Reports: Written reports are attached to these minutes.

Old Business:

Linda Kruger gave a Library presentation. She has undertaken substantial efforts over years to remove duplicate copies, unless specific books are needed for classes. A previous Board vote approved taking duplicates to COAS, and the submission to COAS of 1,728 items has generated substantial credit at the store. Linda plans to rebuild the Library Committee. She plans to box and store the entire young adult collection, and may deaccession some adult fiction books. Together with moving books to empty shelves, this will permit removing books from the top shelf in the Library. Members and the Mensch Club can help with boxing.

Dave Zeemont gave presentations about holding a Deli Dinner and about the 2018 Renaissance Faire booth. The board discussed having a dinner deli night at TBE with mixed cold cuts as well as selling tickets for to-go dinners. Michael Mandel moved to pay the application fees for this year's Renaissance Faire booth, with decisions about partner organizations to be made later. Pearie Bruder seconded this motion. Jeff Lewis noted that the Faire booth is an important tie to the community as well as a fund raiser. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the budget proposal, noting that expenses for Religious School salaries will be \$5,000 rather than \$5,700, and that the History Committee request is \$270, not \$570. Pearie Bruder moved approval for this revised budget, and Jeff Brown seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sue Brown has agreed to submit a personal biography to the Adelante for its August issue, and Cheryl Decker agreed to submit a personal biography for the September issue.

Board members agreed to give Board Announcements on a number of dates in 2018-19.

Jeff Brown and Jeff Lewis had prepared summaries of current contents of the external storage shed and the storage room near the Bimah. The Board decided by consensus to provide a religiously appropriate burial for the many prayer books in the storage room that are no longer in use. Pearie Bruder will check about necessary steps to dig the burial site near the Temple.

Ellen Torres has asked Board members to thank TBE members for their services to the Temple. She will distribute lists for calls in later August or early September. Diane Fleishman suggested adding our Happy New Year's wishes. Ned Rubin suggested giving TBE members advance notice about the calls. The Rabbi noted that Rose Jacobs will help prepare a new TBE Directory.

The Board discussed the October 7 TBE History play and panel discussion that will take place at the University. Ned Rubin asked Jeff Brown to look into the possibility of videotaping the session.

New Business.

The Rabbi, Ned Rubin and Bob Kimball have discussed the new URJ format for our Web materials. We will be able to implement a calendar on the Web to inform people about events and help avoid time conflicts. Ned will develop an E-Blast discussing our need for a new coordinator of Web materials.

Ellen Torres asked Board members to think about topics for the next set of grant proposals to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. She and the Rabbi have discussed some potential speakers or performers.

The Board welcomed Steven Haydu to Temple membership.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Date of Next Executive Board Meeting: **Monday, August 6 @ 6:00 pm** at Temple

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: **Thursday, August 16 @ 7:00 pm** at Temple.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown

Committee and Group Reports.

Budget, Allen Blum, chair: The 2018 - 2019 Budget for TBE was presented to the Board of Trustees on Thursday, May 21st. All elements of the budget were discussed. Unfortunately, I do not recall this budget being approved by the Board? Was it brought up for a vote during the Treasurers Report after my departure from the meeting? Should get Board approval. I will provide no further Budget Committee Reports unless requested by the Temple Treasurer until the next fiscal year 2019 - 2020.

Building and Grounds, Jerry Silverman, Norm Mazer and Jeff Lewis, co-chairs: Major actions since the last report are as follows. David Decker has successfully installed new irrigation valves. We had been experiencing failures recently and expect the repairs will correct the problem. The hole in the parking lot black top is under repair and should be completed within the next week. David requested information on whether the kitchen range hood fire suppression parts had been installed by Dimar. The need was identified by Dimar during their annual inspection of TBE's fire alarm and suppression system. Jerry contacted Dimar on July 10 for the status. He is awaiting a response from them and will be following up next week.

History, Jeff Brown, chair: Jeff Brown delivered oral history transcripts and other materials to Wil Kilroy, who will write the TBE History play. Ellen Torres, Jeff and the Rabbi met with Wil on July 16 to discuss the play. Sisterhood granted the History Committee \$300 to buy a wireless digital scanner. Committee members are reviewing the capabilities of the potential scanner prior to purchasing one.

Israel, Phil Alkon, chair: Archiving of Israel-related media reports and other information was continued. A draft Israel Update article for the July Adelante newsletter was prepared and submitted.

Mensch Club, Luke Duddridge, representative: During the latter part of June and first half of July the Mensch Club presented gifts to three Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and held no meetings or other activities. The club's next meeting will be July 15, at 10:00 AM.

Nominating Committee, Jim Rosenthal, chair: The committee is are completing preparations for the leadership event next month and has identified and assigned the initial three leadership training events for this coming year.

Religious Practices, Jeff Lewis, chair: Religious Practices has scheduled a meeting for July 18 during which we will discuss high holiday plans, Prayer books, and anything thing else members wish to discuss.

Sisterhood, Dee Cook, representative: Our rummage sale is scheduled for August 19. There will not be a honey sale this year due to a bee problem. Lynn Zeemont added that Sisterhood would have its challah sales and New Year's greeting booklet.

Social Action and Adult Education, Ned Rubin, chair: The chair provided an update about our new participation in the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of El Paso and Southern New Mexico. There have been two public statements made within the past month or so from the CRC. The first was a strong statement condemning the separation of families at the southern border. The second was in response to anti-Semitic graffiti and vandalism which took place in the Jewish cemetery in El Paso.

Now that the primary election is over, additional discussion ensued about political forums we will sponsor in the fall. We agreed that we would like to have 2 forums, held on Tuesday evenings, 10/9 and 10/16. The division of the forums by office will be determined at our next meeting.

Further discussion took place about the project on "Walls." The committee remains enthusiastic about this theme. We continue to want to consider other kinds of walls and barriers as well: economic, emotional, can walls be good as well as bad, etc. We began to think about how this might be presented. We talked about various walls that we might want to address: The Kotel; the Berlin Wall; Border walls between US and Mexico; Viet Nam Memorial Wall; Gaza Border wall, the Great Wall in China; Warsaw Ghetto wall; symbolic walls such as railroad tracks, etc. We continue to talk about who we might invite to speak about these various aspects of walls, and the format of the presentations. The committee will think about other representations of walls, and who might be able to talk about them. Based on a suggestion by the Rabbi, the tentative dates of the "Wall" project presentations will be Nov 18, 2018, coinciding with the interfaith presentation we have sponsored in the past, and 1/20/2019.

Sing-Along-With-the-Rabbi will be held on Saturday, July 28 with the year in focus to be 1968.

Strategic Planning, Renee Frank, chair: The Strategic Planning Committee is consolidating its work into a report to provide to the Board.

Ways and Means, Cheryl Decker, Dee Cook, Sue Brown and Joanne Turnbull, co-chairs: In June, 2018, the newly chaired Ways and Means Committee met with 3 of the 4 committee chairs attending. Discussion of ideas for Temple fundraiser. Discussion held regarding co-chairing the committee. In July, 2018, the Ways and Means Committee met and discussed an idea for a Temple fundraiser. We are currently exploring one option which appears to be promising.

Youth Committee, Leora Zeitlin, chair: Amalia Zeitlin will be the advisor again in 2018-2019. The students are off for the summer.

Matzo Ball Open, Lynn Zeemont, chair: The 6th annual Matzo Ball Open golf tournament will be held this year at Picacho Hills Country Club on the 21st of October. We are still undecided as to our charity partner so if there are any new ideas, please forward them to me. Michael Mandel will be chairing the raffle committee and Dee Cook will be in charge of obtaining hole sponsors.

Wednesday Breakfast Club, Phil Alkon, chair: WBC held four weekly meetings with the following scheduled speakers and topics: June 6, Phil Alkon, "What WE Need to Know About Anti-Semitism; June 13, Arthur Berkeley, "The Rock and Roll Story – Continued;" June 20, "Doing Rehab in Las Cruces;" and June 27, Colleen Boyd, "Yoga for Seniors." Buffet breakfasts were prepared by WBC volunteers, for which attendees were charged \$2.00 per meal or \$6.00 per month.