

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: October 19, 2017

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

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:00 pm.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol gave the Invocation and provided additional six-word prayers.

Acceptance of Minutes: The September 27, 2017 meeting minutes were electronically adopted after the meeting with two changes. A reference to the "Drama Department" at NMSU was changed to the "Department of Theatre Arts." A reference to the date of minutes from the previous Board meeting as "May 16, 2017" was changed to "August 17, 2017."

Leadership/Board Reports

- A. **Jim Rosenthal** reported that he, Rabbi Karol and Ellen Torres have met about leadership training activities. He recommended that a committee be created that would merge the Nominating and Leadership Committees and add Board members to meet and create a training program. Pearie Bruder, Sue Brown, Jeff Brown, Ellen Torres, and perhaps other Board members, along with Jim Rosenthal, will attend the first Leadership Committee meeting. It will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday night, October 25 at the Temple. There would be subsequent meetings and a dinner for Temple members interested in participating in the Leadership training program. The plan is for the Leadership Committee members to invite 3 prospective Leadership candidates to participate in the soon-to-be-announced training.
- B. **Rabbi's Report.** (Highlights) The complete report was distributed at the meeting. The Rabbi reported that 67 people participated in High Holy Day worship and many persons joined group aliyots and readings. He is organizing an Interfaith Dialogue that will be held at the Temple on Sunday afternoon, November 19. He has 4 students in his Introduction to Judaism course and 2 additional students interested in conversion. He will take part in interviews for the new Las Cruces chief of police. He attended a meeting of the El Paso Sector Border Community Liaison Program. It brings together Border Patrol agents with local organizations that deal with border and immigration issues. The Rabbi will attend the Shabbat Shira workshop in Wisconsin in November, and he, Rhonda Karol and Ellen Torres will attend the URJ Biennial in Boston in December. He plans to attend the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis convention in January. Arrangements have been or are being made for services on those weekends. Kevin Altman will speak just before the end of services on Friday, October 20 about AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

C. President's Report.

President Ellen Torres opened a discussion about the Rabbi's rabbinical and administrative duties. The Rabbi had met with Jeff Brown and developed extensive lists of these duties that Jeff distributed. The Board began a discussion that included citing some administrative duties that might be handled by committees. The discussion included the possibility of paying for qualified part-time help. Jeff Lewis agreed to handle the weekly Las Cruces Bulletin process. Ellen asked the Board to review the lists, to review the existing committee structure (including possible consolidation of some committees), and to come to the next Board meeting with ideas about administrative duties and the committees. Ellen also asked Board members to prepare biographies for upcoming Adelante issues about their involvement in Judaism and how they had been affected by their Board memberships. Ned Rubin agreed to write an article for November, Dee Cook agreed to write one for December, and Pearie Bruder agreed to write one for January. Ellen discussed the Board's commitment to make calls for the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso's Annual Campaign. Calls will be made to Temple members on November 19 to encourage contributions to the Federation. Sue Bendalin from JFGEP will join us, and Ellen asked each Board member to bring an additional caller to the meeting. The plan is to meet at Temple at 5:00 pm to review what to say and divide up the directory, before making the calls.

- D. Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Allen Blum distributed a first-quarter budget report that reviewed our revenues and expenditures. Dues are flowing in at an unusually quick rate, perhaps because electronic notices remind members about ways to make payments. Some expenses have increased over plans, but the budget is healthy. The Verizon project will begin in December or January. Jeff Lewis reported that the storage shed has arrived. It cost \$1,532 and needs to be painted. Jeff agreed to obtain a lock. Allen made a motion to name the shed in honor of David Brandhorst, the donor of funds in our Merrill Lynch account used to purchase the shed. Jeff Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (The motion was subsequently reconsidered and removed by electronic ballot. An alternate method of honoring Mr. Brandhorst that received electronic approval will appear in the November 16, 2017 Board minutes). Allen suggested creating a shed management committee. He noted that he will meet with Merrill Lynch to review the management of our funds.

Committee Reports

The Board did not receive committee reports before the meeting.

Old Business

- A. Allen showed the Board a card from the Marquez Family describing their appreciation for all that had been done by the Rabbi and Temple members after Ramon Marquez's passing.

- B. Ellen said that she would personally pay for a Temple banner that could be displayed at the Renaissance Faire and other venues. She asked Jeff Lewis to check into costs.
- C. Ellen and the Board discussed responses by TBE members to calls from Board members thanking the Temple members for all that they have done.
- D. The Board discussed donations received from Rabbi Bob Alper's presentation and the Challah Rising film. Ellen asked members to provide additional ideas for future fundraising projects to her. These will be discussed at the November Board meeting.

New Business

- A. It was noted that Board members had previously voted by e-mail and unanimously approved up to \$450 to purchase railings for the bimah area. The actual cost may be lower.
- B. Susan Michelson noted that CDs of the Challah Rising film may be purchased for \$35.
- C. We may arrange for the Board to meet with the Board of Sonoma Springs Church (next door to TBE) for lunch or dinner in the near future. They have requested that our Boards get together.

Guest Comments: Jim Rosenthal's leadership training discussion has been noted above.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Brown