

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: November 19, 2015

<p>Trustees Present: Ann Berkson, Allen Blum, Paul Feil, David Fishman, Diane Fleishman, Renee Frank, Leslie Glater, Monika Kimball, Ned Rubin, Mark Saltman, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Karol (ex-officio), Trustees Absent: Erich Zameret, Dave Zeemont Guest(s): Linda Kruger</p>
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Opening:

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Monika Kimball at 7:10 pm.

Invocation: The Rabbi read a Prayer for Israel as the Invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes (as corrected, if applicable): The minutes of the last meeting, Thursday, October 22, 2015, were approved.

Presentation of the Board Budget Meeting, Wednesday, November 18, 2015: Ned Rubin reported on this meeting and presented the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report:** The Rabbi reported that Ron Bernstein will present a program on the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 pm here at the Temple. The Rabbi also mentioned that we are hosting an interfaith panel on Thankfulness, "Ever Grateful: An Interfaith Conversation," on Sunday, November 22. Our Chanukah celebration will include candle lighting on Wednesday, December 9. On Friday, December 11, there will be a potluck dinner with latkes at 5:30 pm and a service including Chanukah candle lighting at 6:15 pm.
- B. President's Report:** Monika Kimball reported that the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso sent us a letter regarding this year's distribution (\$458) to TBE from the Batkin Fund. There will be an outside display case on the wall to the left of the Temple main doorway that will display announcements. Monika opened a discussion regarding where to spend the funds donated to TBE from Mary Fitzgerald's estate (\$8,000). She proposed that the Board use some of the funds to pay for a brick in Mary's memory and that we should also use some of the funds to purchase a brick in memory of past TBE Board President and long-time, beloved member Mel Taylor. This will be voted on next month. Monika stated that library funds were used to purchase a computer from Kosh Technology, and Linda Kruger stated that Frances Williams has offered to purchase a second computer. Two other Kosh proposals require further price checking, which Monika will report on next month. Monika and Debbie Levy are exploring the idea of

setting up a TBE phone tree, like we've had in the past, or to implement a one-on-one communication system to get important messages out to members. The TBE Family Festivus Committee will meet on December 2 to continue discussing the January 23 Board-sponsored event. Invitations with RSVP notes will be sent out on January 2, 2016, to invite members to attend. RSVP's need to be returned by January 13.

- C. **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Feil discussed using Rakefet to assist in working on the treasury report. Diane Fleishman mentioned that her husband, Stu, has offered to help Paul. Ned stated that if we upgrade and use the programs offered by Rakefet, we can discard the use of Quickbooks and get everything onto one system. Monika contacted a bookkeeper to see about using his services. Monika also called CPA Lisa Willman, who attended the Board Budget Meeting last night, to thank her for her services and to ask her to stay on until the end of this year. Monika will invite Paul and an ad hoc group to discuss the Temple's future bookkeeping needs.

Committee Reports

- A. **Sisterhood Report:** Leslie Glater reported that the Sisterhood meeting was held last night, Wednesday, November 18, 2015. Leslie presented the Sisterhood financial report, which she will give to Paul Feil. The Judaica Shop will hold a special Chanukah Boutique sale this Sunday, November 22 from 9:00-12:30. Approximately \$800 was used to purchase new merchandise for this sale. Marieka Brown has resigned her position on Sisterhood Council, so they are looking for someone to replace her. The next rummage sale is pending. There are 67 Sisterhood members.
- B. **Mensch Club Report:** Dave Zeemont was absent. Monika asked the Rabbi, who is secretary of the Mensch Club, to pursue the group's task of writing a new constitution.
- C. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Chair Allen Blum stated that his committee met last week to set up their key objectives to complete their SWOT analysis for the Temple (S - Strengths, W - Weakness, O - Opportunities, T - Threats). They hope to finalize it by the end of January. Coming up with the key objectives and presenting them to the Board will be the next step.
- D. **Adult Education Committee:** Chair Ellen Torres stated that the next event will be an interfaith panel discussion on Thankfulness with local clergymen and women on Sunday, November 22. The Dona Ana Lyric Opera Company has confirmed its performance of NMSU Bel Canto Scholarship winners on Sunday, January 31. A panel discussion on Israel with some of our Temple scholars may take place in February. The group is also co-hosting a Belrussian violinist in March, who is performing with the Las Cruces Symphony. The Adult Education Committee and the Rabbi Kane Adult Education Scholarship Fund will help pay the violinist's \$500 fee. The Di Kavene Kapelye Klezmer group from Albuquerque has agreed to perform at the JFFF on April 17 in conjunction with Adult Ed. In May the committee is planning a presentation of Stories of Our Mothers and Grandmothers along with family recipes that will culminate in a publication. They will hold a sing-a-long with Rabbi Karol in June. The next Adult Ed meeting will be held in February.

- E. **Religious Practices Committee:** The Rabbi reported that the committee met on November 16. Jeff Lewis is now the chairperson. A key discussion point focused on the times of Shabbat services, starting at either 6:00 or 7:00 rather than 7:30. The committee decided that there will be only one service on Family Shabbat Fridays. They will send out a survey to congregants to determine preferences for Friday service start times.
- F. **Religious School Committee:** Mark Saltman reported that Marieka Brown, co-chair for four years, has stepped down as co-chair. Mark said that this is a sad loss for the committee as she provided much creativity and support. Mark will chair the committee solo, for the time being. The committee is devising a way to better monitor the grant money, i.e., camp scholarships. They would like students who receive camp scholarships to report on their camp experience and provide receipts for the camp fees. Sisterhood and the Religious School Committee will work together on this.
- G. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** Chair Renee Frank stated that her group has been communicating by email. Bob Kimball, as Webmaster, has been advising the group about using Pay Pal on the website. This would make it convenient for members to make contributions or to pay their Temple dues online.
- H. **Social Action Committee:** Chair Ned Rubin said they held a very successful Candidate Forum on Monday, October 26. The committee met today, November 19. He discussed that they are organizing their next event, to be co-sponsored with the Adult Education Committee: a panel discussion on Poverty, on Sunday, January 24. They have lined up some very authoritative, reputable speakers that may be able to contribute information about various aspects of poverty. They plan to provide a two-part forum. The first will provide information and greater understanding of poverty and related issues. The second part should address available resources and challenge attendees to take action.

Old Business

- A. **Emergency Preparedness / Security Management Update:** Mark Saltman discussed his committee's recent meeting. Philip Van Veen, owner of Eagle Security, met with the committee about better ways to secure our Temple facility. The committee also met to discuss emergency preparedness, and have lined up four individuals from LCPD to talk about lock-downs, shelter-in-place, etc. They will hold that meeting in December. He said he might be prepared to give a more complete report to the Board in January. They need to get estimates for security measures.
- B. **Report on Matzo Ball Open, held October 25 at Picacho Hills Country Club:** Allen Blum reported that they brought in about \$11,000, which is \$2,000 more than last year. They will be giving a 15% donation to Habitat for Humanity. An article was in the paper today about the donation to Habitat. The Temple will receive a donation of approximately \$6,000. Allen commended Arthur Berkson's work on organizing the event, along with other the organizers, including Lynn Zeemont, Jason Rosenberg, and Michael Stow. Monika sent individual thank you notes to the Matzo Ball organizers.
- C. **Kosh Technology Report:** Item mentioned in the President's report.

- D. **I.D. Buttons Update:** Ann Berkson went online to price the I.D. buttons—about \$3.40 apiece, same price for plastic or metal. Buttons are reusable and snapped on. They can come with pins or be magnetic, but Board members said they preferred magnetic. Visitors would be given a stick-on nametag. Ned asked if Ann could order a sample so we could look at it, and she said she would try to do that. Monika asked Ann to check locally to see if a company here might sell these I.D. tags as well. The plan is that the tags would stay at the Temple, and that members would pick them up and put them on when they arrive at Temple.
- E. **Affiliation with Jewish Federation of El Paso and/or Jewish Federation of New Mexico:** Rabbi said that the Jewish Federation of NM would be sending someone down to Las Cruces to give us a report on the survey that was sent out to Jewish New Mexicans last year. He talked with Zach Benjamin of the Jewish Federation of NM earlier in the week, and he has talked with Daniel from the Jewish Federation of El Paso. They are both interested in our Temple affiliating with them. This discussion will be continued.

New Business

- A. **Ron Bernstein's Israel Fundraiser for Progressive Judaism:** Was discussed earlier in the Rabbi's report.
- B. **Compliance with Las Cruces Safety Codes** ("panic bars" & window on front doors—8x16, \$1230): Allen Blum said that he has investigated the panic bars and a small window on the front doors. Monika said she talked to Dave Zeemont about funds from an estate that the Temple would inherit. Dave said that he would fund the cost of the door (approximately \$5,000) using the estate funds mentioned. Allen talked to Rawson's about purchasing the door, and he looked at various options.
- C. **Food Donations Delivery** (to move bags out of hallway): Allen Blum stated that he would like to see the food donations get to Case de Peregrinos regularly rather than remaining in the hallway. Leslie Glater has helped out by occasionally taking the food down there. Social Action Committee was mentioned as the weekly food donation delivery team. Follow up needed.

Guest Comments

- A. **If any guests are present, they are invited to make comments:** Linda Kruger was present. She stated that she will report on the Library Committee at the next meeting.

Executive Session:

- A. No items to discuss or vote on.

Next Meeting Dates:

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 @ 5:30pm

Date of next Board of Trustees meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2015 @ 7:00pm

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by President Monika Kimball at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Torres
