

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: July 23, 2015

**Trustees Present:** Ann Berkson, Allen Blum, Paul Feil, Renee Frank, Leslie Glater, Monika Kimball, Mark Saltman, Ellen Torres, Dave Zeemont, Rabbi Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** David Fishman, Diane Fleishman, Ned Rubin, Erich Zameret

**Guest(s):** Steve Halper, Rebecca Martinez

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Monika Kimball at 7:05

**Invocation:** The Rabbi announced that the new prayer books have arrived. He did an invocation from the new book.

**Acceptance of Minutes (as corrected):** A correction was noted by Monika on page 3 of the minutes regarding Batkin fund matching amount being \$1,800 rather than \$1,500. Members were directed to correct this amount. Allen mentioned that in the Budget section, that the Golf Tournament garnered a gross total of \$8,918 and net of \$4,800. The JFFF total was a net amount of \$11,000. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as amended.

#### **Old Business**

- A. Keys to the Temple: Everyone that is on “the list” has either received new keys or has a key that they need to pick up.
- B. Alarm Codes: We are going to have one single entry and exit code. In the past there were 80 different codes, which Allen Blum is going to have deleted by the alarm company.

#### **Leadership / Board Reports**

- A. **Rabbi's Report:** The Rabbi gave trustees handouts on his Goals for 2015-2016 along with his Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi reviewed key goals that were derived from the Congregational Survey on the Rabbi (noted in handout). Then he reviewed his report. As he mentioned when he did his invocation, 35 copies of the new Reform High Holy Day Prayerbook have arrived. The Rabbi reviewed the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of Lily Labe on August 15, the reaffirmations of Claire and Elizabeth Silberman's B'not Mitzvah, his upcoming attendance at NewCAJE (Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education) in Hartford, CT, on August 2-5 that behooves us to find a lay service leader for July 31 when he is away, his involvement with Las Cruces Peace Camp, his attendance at the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial convention on November 4-8 in Orlando, FL, for which he will be an official delegate of the congregation, to name a few points.

- B. **President's Report:** Monika Kimball welcomed Ann Berkson to the Board, who stepped in for Joan Glickler who stepped down due to personal reasons. She also welcomed the new Sisterhood Liaison, Leslie Glater, who replaces the outgoing Susan Michaelson. Next Monika mentioned the Wednesday breakfast needing to increase their weekly fee for attendees to \$3.00 from \$2.00. The breakfast is open to the community. About half of the attendees are Temple members. Monika is still looking for a Chairperson for the Ways and Means Committee, so she asked Trustees to make suggestions for a person to fill that slot. Monika is waiting to hear about a large donation to the Temple from the estate of Mary Fitzgerald, who recently passed away. Next Monika brought up the thought of possibly charging a fee for High Holy Day tickets, which was discussed at the last meeting. The Rabbi brought up the possibility of "enhancing the ask" to members along with non-members who attend those services by ensuring that donation envelopes are very visible during the services. Dave brought up the idea of documenting donations and tracking where it comes from. The Rabbi said that he gets about ten calls a year asking about High Holy Days, and it was suggested that he get their names. Monika said that Marianne Rosenthal has offered to help Paul Feil with any treasurer responsibilities, i.e., keeping track of donations. Monika mentioned that the Committees responded very well to her request for each Committee to turn in their Mission Statement or Constitution, Member List, Budget, Minutes, Meeting Frequency, Fundraising, Planning, etc. so that she can keep folders for each Committee to keep running reports and information. Finally, Monika brought up the idea of having a Klezmer group perform as a big Temple fundraiser in January. This plan is in the works and will be organized by Monika, Temple leaders, and several Committee Chairs.
- C. **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Feil asked Trustees to review the handouts from Steve Halper, and said that the end of year numbers are not done yet, but that the Budget presented by Steve is pretty close to our actual budget. Paul's goal is to get budget numbers input into Quicken, which will allow him to enter more line items. Tracking some expenses are more difficult than others as some are fixed versus others that are not. Paul recently sent out the request for annual dues, with a need for members to pay past-due dues no later than August 15, 2015 (to ensure that dues for 2014-15 are paid up). If adjustments are needed in what members have pledged, they are welcome to contact Paul to change what they pledge. The new fiscal year starts July 1 every year. Trustees discussed the various fundraisers, the brick walkway, etc. Monika said that to clarify she would call Alison Mann to find out whether the brick walkway made a profit or not, which was a question during this discussion. It was also brought up that the water in the fountain is not running, so this will be looked into.

**Committee Reports**—with updates on Constitution, Mission Statement, Member List, Budget, Meeting Frequency, Minutes, Planning, Fundraising

- A. **Sisterhood Report:** Leslie Glater began her report by stating that at the June 9, 2015 Sisterhood Council Meeting, new Council Members were elected—Leslie Glater as Board Liaison, Brenda Parish as Sisterhood rep, and Dinny Bomberg as member-at-large. A copy of the minutes have been given to Monika Kimbal for her records. Sisterhood is currently having a Challah and honey sale and New Years' greetings fundraiser. Rhonda Karol and Sue Mazer can be contacted for questions. Order forms and information have been mailed to the congregation. The annual Sisterhood Brunch is set for August 30, and is open to all women of the congregation. The Sisterhood has raised funds that are being donated to the following: \$300 to the Brick Fund, \$400 to the Library Fund, \$300 to the Religious School, and \$500 to the Camper Fund (new). In order to deliver the \$500 check for the camp scholarship, there must be a line order developed and published in the Adelante. Leslie asked when and how this would be accomplished. Some donations were put into the incorrect fund, Youth Fund, instead of Campership Fund Scholarship, so they would like their donations transferred to the correct fund. When her report was completed, Leslie handed over a check that included the total of all the donations from Sisterhood to Paul Feil, Treasurer.
- B. **Mensch Club Report:** Dave Zeemont began his report mentioning a couple of events for mid-August or later. The group wants to show the film Exodus. They have the movie, but just need to set a date. They have a commercial quality projection system. Monika said that she received their Constitution, but had questions about the length of positions (in years) and treasurer. Allen asked about a budget, but Dave said it's not available right now. Dave said there are elected officers. Monika said that the Mensch Club has to abide by the same rules as all the other organizations, like Sisterhood. Dave admitted that the Mensch Club program is "sketchy" at this point. Monika said that transparency is really important and that the monies should be in writing in a treasurer's report. Dave said he would work on it. Dave said that regarding the Rabbi Gerald Kane Memorial Fund, the Temple has collected close to \$2,000, and that goes with the money that is currently in the fund. Mrs. Kane would like to bring in a speaker with some of the money. Dave said we could use some of the money to improve the Temple sound system (especially since that is needed for showing films).
- C. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Allen Blum began by stating that the committee met last night for the first time. They discussed short term and long-term strategies for the Temple. The committee consists of five members. Renee offered to volunteer to be on this committee, and felt that there is a strong connection between this and her committee, Marketing and Public Relations. The point is to provide the Board with objectives and what to do about them. They discussed what is "relevant" to the Temple, and Allen said that it opened up a very interesting discussion that will be continued as they meet next time.
- D. **Adult Education Committee:** Ellen Torres began by stating that her committee met yesterday, July 22, and they have developed a Mission Statement and other items requested by Monika, which they have sent to her. They reviewed their

responsibilities and their annual plan of events. Ellen identified various events that are in the works for this coming year. The first event will be a presentation on the purpose and development of the Vietnam Memorial on Roadrunner Pkwy at the Veterans' Park along with a sharing of local Veterans' Vietnam experiences on Sunday, August 9 at 2:00 pm at the Temple.

- E. **Religious Practices Committee:** The Rabbi spoke for this committee. Currently Stuart Kelter is the Chair, and after the High Holy Days, Jeff Lewis will take over as Chair. The Rabbi talked about items that will need to be prepared for High Holy Days, and said it would be useful to get help from some volunteers. Rabbi also wants to get congregant participation during the services for High Holy Days along with during the year as well. Rabbi said he likes to have individuals come up for Aliyahs, but sometimes he asks the congregation collectively to do it if someone doesn't step up.
- F. **Religious School Committee:** Mark Saltman said he met with Marieka Brown and the Rabbi last week. Religious School will start on August 23. They plan to have one or two more class sessions this year. One committee member stepped down. A letter is being sent out to parents to ask if they want to be involved on the committee. They will be putting together a Mission Statement at the next meeting. Some Sunday school sessions will be altered based on Jewish holidays that fall on Sundays. Mark thanked Sisterhood for the funds donated so that they can buy tables for classrooms.
- G. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** Renee Frank, Chairperson, said her committee hasn't met yet, but they will meet soon within the next couple of weeks. She needs to get an understanding of what has worked in the past in regard to the areas that fall under her committee's purview, so she plans to meet with the Rabbi about it. She would like to develop a strategic communication plan, to take a step back and determine what they are trying to accomplish. She wants a vision, where they are headed and where they want to be, before they develop a mission statement. Monika brought up the insurance policy coverages that we have as a Temple, and she is hoping that Renee can shed some light on that.
- H. **Budget Committee (out of order, presented earlier in the meeting):** Steve Halper presented updated budget information for which everyone received handouts. The 2014-15 Budget was \$172,900. The actual 2014-15 Budget was \$195,650, so we had more income than projected. Our projected 2015-16 Budget is \$181,700. Steve stated that he usually understates the budget by \$20,000, based on past history. Projected expenses in 2014-15 were \$195,406, and actual expenses were \$195,628. The projected expenses for 2015-16 are \$199,210. A brief discussion ensued regarding our investments/holdings, and the interest our investments are earning. However, it was stated that this is not part of our operating budget. Paul moved that the budget be accepted. Renee seconded that motion. Monika called for a vote to accept the budget. All voted in favor.

## New Business

- A. **New Temple Directory:** We need congregants' past-due Dues (that are in arrears) to be paid by 8/15/15 for individuals or families to be listed in Directory. Monika restated this point, as was mentioned earlier in the Treasurer's Report. She asked the Rabbi about his work on the directory, and he said he is working on it. Monika mentioned that she would like to take a look at it before it goes to print.
- B. **Installation Ceremony for the Board of Trustees and Sisterhood Council on August 28:** Rhonda Karol is in charge of the installation activities, which will include having the children from the Religious School being involved as well. The choir will sing. Monika said she hopes there will be a special Oneg.
- C. **Rabbi's Goals for Board:** The Rabbi's goals were identified during his Report earlier.
- D. **New Cemetery Committee Chair:** Diane Fleishman has taken on this Chairpersonship.

## Guest Comments

- A. **If any guests are present, they are invited to make comments:** No guests made any comments at this time.

## Executive Session:

- A. It was stated that Jane Grider has asked to rejoin the Temple. Paul Feil moved that we accept Jane Grider as a returning member. Mark Saltman seconded the motion. Monika asked for a vote. This was approved by affirmation.

The date of the next meeting was set for: Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

The date of the next Executive Board meeting was set for: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by President Monika Kimball at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Torres

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