

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: August 18, 2016

**Trustees Present:** Allen Blum, Ann Berkson, Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook (Sisterhood), Diane Fleishman, Mike Lieberman, Jeff Lewis (Mensch Club), Susan Michelson, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** Renee Frank, Ned Rubin, Erich Zameret

**Guest(s):** Bill Stein, Michael Mandel, Mark Saltman

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:03 pm.

**Invocation:** The Rabbi gave the Invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes.** Sue Brown moved to accept the minutes. Allen Blum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Guest Comments**

Bill Stein discussed the Jewish Federation Workshop in El Paso regarding issuing Grants to further the Jewish community. Last year a total of \$155K was dispensed in Grants. The Federation wants to dispense all of the funds every year. The grant proposals are due Sept. 30, 2016. The funds will be available January 2017 to be spent within the calendar year. Ellen suggested a scholar-in-residence program or something related to social action. Pearie made a motion to establish an ad hoc committee for a possible grant(s). Diane Fleishman seconded it. The motion was passed. Bill Stein offered to review any proposals developed.

Mark Saltman discussed the results of the Security Committee that was formed last year. The report is attached.

Pearie will email Jerry Silverman to request that the bush in the playground be removed and the hole filled near that last bush.

We need to educate the children and teachers regarding the security measures. The security committee will address this with the Las Cruces Police Department.

Mark will write up our procedures. They will be included in an eblast/Adelante prior to the High Holy Days.

Mike Mandel addressed TBE's participation in the Renaissance Faire. Although we thought this fundraiser was "off", it's back on. The \$810 booth fees were paid by TBE and the application was submitted. We will run the booth on Sunday and the Center for Spiritual Living (CSL) will run it on Saturday. Temple members will "volunteer" on Saturday to assist the CSL. Ann Berkson asked the Rabbi how he felt about this new arrangement. The Rabbi indicated that if the temple members work on Saturday, they are working on their

own and not representing TBE. There will be a meeting on Sunday, Aug 21, at 3PM to iron out the details. A written agreement has not been developed yet.

### **Leadership / Board Reports**

- A. **Rabbi's Report.** The Rabbi's report detailed a very busy summer. In addition, the Rabbi reported that the lapel mike has been sent out to be fixed. Also, new literature is being explored. The new Mishkan Hanefesh Prayer Books are \$33.50 per set. The Rabbi proposed a program called "Kreplach & Dim Sum!" In this program Robyn Helzner shares stories, photos, video and music to explore the history of the Jewish communities in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kaifeng; and traces their emergence as the fastest growing Jewish region in the world today. A motion was made by Mike Lieberman to have this Jewish Heritage Tour program on January 23, 2016. Dee Cook seconded the motion. The motion was passed with one opposition.
  
- B. **President's Report.** President Ellen Torres reported the following. Her full report is included with these minutes. 1) Renee's meeting with door artist John Northcutt; 2) an online "Zoom" meeting between URJ North America Board member Steve Sherman, Allen, and Ellen about the benefits of URJ and the opportunity to reduce our annual dues; 3) a meeting with the Zeemonts regarding final disposition from the Brandhorst estate and going forward with the Renaissance Fair booth; 4) the Jewish Federation of El Paso grant writing workshop attended by Bill Stein; and 5) the establishment of the Rabbi review committee and the work they have started. Ellen stated that she appreciated that Mark Saltman agreed to attend tonight's meeting to share information about the Security Committee's work and our enhanced role in security as Board members, and she appreciated that Bill Stein agreed to attend to discuss the tentative plan to write a grant proposal to the Jewish Federation of El Paso. By attending their grant writing workshop, he has made us eligible to write a proposal and to potentially fund a future educational program of some kind that will benefit our community. She also appreciated Michael Mandel coming to speak on behalf of the Renaissance Faire booth plans.
  
- C. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Allen Blum discussed PAYPAL and reminded us that this is a mechanism that TBE provides for convenience. It's not the preferred method. There is a 2.9% fee and it costs \$.30 per transaction. The additional fee will be in the quarterly statement. Allen reported that the mortgage payoff was never filed with the county office. He will file with the county on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Allen also presented the Treasurer's Statement of Activity for the period ending July 31, 2016. This report was in the new format, which was considerably more streamlined than in the past. He asked that we think about the expenditures: question and analyze them. He would like to form a finance committee to look at building investment.

### **Committee Reports: 2 minute time limit for reports**

- A. **Sisterhood Report:** Dee Cook reported for the Sisterhood Council about the ongoing Honey and Challah sales. Also, the annual Sisterhood Brunch is on September 11, at

11:30 AM. Also, she indicated that the sisterhood needs someone to take the lead for the Rosh Hashanah Oneg as well as the Break Fast. A request for volunteers will be in the weekly email. Dee addressed the letter that went out to all congregants regarding the proposed dues increase. She questioned the Reserve Fund including "Kitchen Appliances". Dee said that the sisterhood has always been responsible for the kitchen. Allen said that the statement was made in case the sisterhood did not have the funds to address these needs.

- B. **Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee:** Ellen Torres reported that Renee was empathetic to John Northcutt and believes we should pay most of the amount that Northcutt requested. After some discussion Ann Berkson made a motion that we pay \$250. Susan Michelson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ann reported that the committee met with Artistic Entryways. The committee loves their door. Pearie made a motion that we get that door (proposal #16086 for \$13,454). Ann seconded the motion. The motion carried. The money for this project is from the bequeathal.
- C. **Adult Education Committee:** No report this month.
- D. **Budget Committee:** No report this month.
- E. **Building and Grounds Committee:** No report this month.
- F. **Cemetery Committee:** No report this month.
- G. **Dues Committee:** No report this month.
- H. **Library Committee:** No report this month.
- I. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** No report this month.
- J. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** No report this month.
- K. **Membership and Outreach Committee:** No report this month.
- L. **Nominating Committee:** No report this month.
- M. **Religious Practices Committee:** No report this month.
- N. **Religious School Committee:** Pearie Bruder gave a report on the Religious School.
- O. **Security Management Committee:** Mark Saltman reported in person. He gave the Board an update on the safety equipment purchased during Spring 2016. His report will be included with these minutes.
- P. **Social Action Committee:** Ned Rubin reminded everyone of the upcoming Forum on Poverty scheduled for Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.
- Q. **Technology Committee:** No report this month.
- R. **Ways and Mean Committee:** No report this month.
- S. **Youth Activities Committee:** Julie Seton submitted a report, including a calendar of events. This will be included with the minutes.

## **Old Business**

- A. Temple Door: Reported above, under Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee.
- B. Update from Renee on John Northcutt: Reported above.
- C. Tribute Card Funds List—The tribute cards will be brought to the next meeting. For timely situations, this will be done via email.
- D. URJ Dues - research on URJ Site/Services by Board members requested. The current TBE payment to URJ is \$5,400 per year. What do we get for that? The rabbi indicated that we need to have "Yammer" to get into the URJ website to see what URJ offers. There are many services/programs that we don't know about and therefore we don't take advantage of these. URJ offers free website hosting; free consultation; and helps with the capital campaign. Ellen asked that we investigate the URJ site to see what areas we could take advantage of - that would benefit TBE. Allen discussed reducing our pledge to \$2500. After discussion, Susan Michelson made a motion that we negotiate to \$4000. Sue Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried. Allen will communicate a reduction not less than \$4000.
- E. Update on Brandhorst Estate - Ellen Torres and Ned Rubin met with Dave Zeemont. The final amount paid to TBE was \$3723.53. The dollar amounts for this bequeathal were addressed in the February 2016 and March 2016 Board meetings. TBE gave the Center for Spiritual Living (a check was cut) for \$5400, which was to represent 10% of the total amount. Because of the reduction in the total bequeathal amount, this represents more than 10%.  
  
In order to prevent future situations where the Treasurer is asked to cut checks prior to final arrangements, Susan Michelson made a motion stating " We do not, as a board, issue a check without the proper paperwork attached. Ann Berkson seconded the motion. After some discussion, it was determined that we should table this until the next meeting.  
  
Ellen has the final accounting and will get the check from Dave Zeemont for TBE.
- F. Sign-ups for Board Announcements. Gaps were filled. Ellen will update the list and Disseminate via email.
- G. Ellen Torres reported on the Rabbi's Evaluation. The committee is made up of Ellen, Ned Rubin, Sue Mazer Patrick Quinn, and Lionel Jacobs. A discussion was held about the interviews and questions to be asked. We discussed the importance of allowing a cross section of congregants to be heard. Ellen indicated that in the Adelante she will report on the process and will invite all who have something to say to talk to Ellen or Ned.

## **New Business**

- A. Jewish Federation Grant Opportunities - Bill Stein. Addressed above

B. 52/120 Fund Raiser Proposal for February 11, 2017 - Rose Jacobs. We will not go forward with this.

**Guest Comments**

A. See above.

**Executive Session:**

A. There was no Executive Session.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2016 @ 6:30 pm (option of electronic meeting)

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2016 @ 7:00pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday