

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: December 15, 2016

Trustees Present: Allen Blum, Ann Berkson, Dee Cook, Renee Frank, Jeff Lewis, Michael Lieberman, Susan Michelson, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Erich Zameret, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Diane Fleishman

Guest(s): Bill Stein

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

Invocation: The Rabbi gave the Invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes. Ellen asked for acceptance of the minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting. Allen Blum moved to accept the minutes, Susan Michelson seconded. Minutes were accepted.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. **Rabbi's Report.** (Highlights) Complete report is attached.
1. Rabbi Karol reported that he is continuing to keep track of congregants who have gone through surgery and those in recovery.
 2. The Adult Education program, "Humble Enough? And Interfaith Conversation" brought 50 people together for presentations and small group discussions. The event was covered on the front page of the LC Sun News on Thanksgiving Day and featured in photos in the LC Bulletin on December 9.
 3. The Rabbi made presentations on Chanukah at Valley View Elementary School, at Amistad Advanced Pre-School of the LC Public Schools, and at J. Paul Taylor Academy.
 4. The Rabbi reported there are 4 B'nai Mitzvah coming up in 2017.
 5. He recounted a conversation with Amy Asin, the URJ Vice President for Strengthening Congregations, who said there is a good possibility that the URJ can send someone to do leadership consultation and training for us this coming year.
 6. He announced that his first grandchild is to be born in 2017!
- B. **President's Report.** (Highlights) Complete report attached.
- President Ellen Torres remarked on the loss of Steve Halper and how deeply she felt about his horrible loss. He was such a dedicated member and able Budget Committee Chairperson who took the time to help Temple Beth-El with our finances and assist in so many capacities throughout his years here in Las Cruces.
1. She commented, as did the Rabbi, on the success of the visit by Lynne Butner, the SW Regional Director for NFTY, in which she met with the youth groups, parents, and board members. The interactions were very successful and

should result in renewed energy and hopefully greater participation in youth activities.

2. The ad hoc Leadership Committee continues to meet to discuss what leadership actually means for TBE.
3. Plans for the FestivUS, a Board-sponsored event to be held on Saturday, January 21, right after Havdalah service, are continuing to unfold. The Board is planning a very special event to honor and appreciate the TBE congregation.

C. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Allen Blum reported:

1. To date we have received 55.8% of budgeted member pledges, and 60% of budgeted donations and fundraiser receipts.
2. The Matzo Ball Open brought in about \$5100 in net income.
3. There are still a number of pledges that have not been paid and efforts are being made to reach out to those who are past due.

Committee Reports: Only Committees with Reports Are Shown

- A. Sisterhood Report – Dee Cook, Sisterhood Representative. Sisterhood has purchased 2 refrigerators for the kitchen. Dee said additionally, they may keep the one that is still working.
- B. Mensch Club Report – Jeff Lewis, Mensch Club Representative. There is still no final accounting for the Renaissance Faire Food Booth
- C. Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee – Ann Berkson, Chair. The new Temple doors are scheduled to be put in on Tuesday. The doors will be dedicated at the service on December 23.
- D. Budget Committee – Allen Blum will take over as Budget Committee Chair in Steve Halper's place.
- E. Youth Activities Committee – Julie Seton, Chair:
 1. Interviews have been held for the position of BETY-BEMY advisor, and after some discussion and weighing the established criteria against the answers given by the candidates, we recommend that the position be offered to Andrea Orzoff for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year, which ends in May 2017.
 2. Andrea's statement: "I've been a member of TBE since 1999, and have served on the temple board. I have also been a classroom educator since 1989. I've taught gifted middle schoolers, middle-aged English-language learners, teens with behavioral and learning disabilities, and now "average" college students at NMSU, a minority-serving institution. This range of experience has helped me learn different ways to reach out to different kinds of students. Also, I attended several Jewish summer camps as a teenager, although I was not active in my own temple youth group -- these camps were a marvelous way to learn firsthand how invigorating it is to be surrounded by other Jewish kids, and how it can infuse simple hanging-out with Jewishness. I'd like to serve as youth group advisor mainly so that I can help my sons and the other Temple kids have experiences like the ones I treasured growing up. Whatever I can do to facilitate these kids' growing knowledge of and pride in their identity, I'd like to do."

Old Business

- A. Report from ad hoc Leadership Development Committee. Ellen reported that the committee continues to explore who we are and where we want to go. The meetings, facilitated by Jim Rosenthal, have been educational and insightful. We are also discovering valuable resources from URJ and other sources to help guide us through the process.
- B. Update on Festivus. Plans are coming along to make this a memorable event for the Congregation. Invitations will go out on Sunday, January 8.
- C. Mike Batkin Offer – Ellen is in contact with Mike Batkin regarding available funds from an Estate that Mr. Batkin has encouraged us to request. Mr. Batkin has directed us to write a letter to the Executor of the Estate requesting funds for camperships, leadership training, and for a donation to be added to the corpus of the Batkin fund.
- D. Jewish Federation Grand Proposal Update. Bill Stein reported that the Temple Beth-El proposal requesting \$25,000 for a “Beth-El Scholars in Residence” program has received \$13,142.86 from the Jewish Federation. The original request was to fund 4 high profile Jewish speakers/performers. The committee will meet to propose alternative ways to bring in at least 3 of the 4, to hold events at Temple Beth-El that will further the appreciation of Jewish culture in the community.
- E. Inductive Loop Hearing Support Device—Michael Lieberman. Michael Lieberman reported on an hoc committee meeting to evaluate needs for inductive loop hearing support devices at TBE, and made a motion for a short term solution of purchasing hand receivers, headsets and loops along with an ear-mounted mike for the Rabbi. This motion was seconded and approved by the Board. Information about the availability of this equipment will be added to the Accessibility page of the TBE website. Longer term solutions for those who are hearing impaired will continue to be evaluated.
- F. Sign-ups for Board Announcements (ongoing)

New Business

- A. Actions resulting from Committee Reports. None.
- B. Allen Blum reported that Jeff Brown has approached him regarding a number of TBE artifacts and historical items he has and would like to provide to the Temple. Other congregation members also have historical items. The Board discussed re-activating the History Committee mentioned in the TBE Constitution, and to ask Jeff Brown to chair it. There was also discussion to consider writing a grant proposal requesting funds to cover bringing in a historian/archivist.
- C. Recommendation from Youth Activities Committee regarding the hiring of a Youth Advisor. See Youth Activities Committee report, above. After interviewing candidates for the BETY-BEMY Advisory, the Committee has recommended that the position be offered to Andrea Orzoff for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school

year, which ends in May 2017. Ned Rubin moved to approve the recommendation, Allen Blum seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. The Board discussed a request made by politicians Bill Soules and Joanne Ferrary to hold constituent meetings at TBE. Renee Frank moved to approve the request so long as the customary fee is charged. Jeff Lewis seconded, and the motion was passed.

Guest Comments

- A. Bill Stein presented the Jewish Federation Proposal Update (Old Business, Item D. above.)
- B. There were no other guest comments.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at approximately 9:06 pm.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:23 pm

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2017 @ 6:30 pm

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 7:00pm, 3rd Thursday