

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: September 15, 2016

**Trustees Present:** Allen Blum, Ann Berkson, Pearie Bruder, Diane Fleishman, Renee Frank, Jeff Lewis, Susan Michelson, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Erich Zameret  
Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** Sue Brown, Michael Lieberman

**Guest(s):** No Guests

**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 August 18, 2016 meeting. Allen Blum moved to accept the minutes, Ann Berkson seconded. Minutes were accepted.

### Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report. (Highlights) Complete report is attached.
- Religious School is in full session – we have 27 students from pre-school through Machon.
  - There were 35 participants at our “Shabbat Under the Stars” Family service on Friday, September 9.
  - Shofar across Borders was cancelled – hopefully will be back on the calendar for next year.
  - Ilana Lapid is working to get exposure for her film, Yochi in order to complete it. The Mensch Club will sponsor a showing of the film on September 24 at 7:30 pm. Ilana will be there to discuss the film.
- B. President's Report. (Highlights) Complete report attached.
- The Rabbi Review Committee has completed its interviews with congregation members. A report will be provided to the congregation in Adelante.
  - The semi-annual congregational meeting is coming up at the end of October or beginning of November. We have an opportunity to consider a change to the constitution to reduce the number of Board members required on the Board. This item was discussed below.
- C. Treasurer's Report.
- Allen Blum indicated that 34% of our expected income has been taken in during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, and we are on target to meet our budget so far this year.
  - Since the 52/100 fundraiser will not happen this year, the \$6200 income budgeted for it will need to be made up with other fundraisers. The booth at the Renaissance Fair should be able to make up the difference.
  - We now have \$2000 in reserves from the 10% pledge increase.

## **Committee Reports: See Full September Committee Reports in Attachment**

### **Old Business**

- A. Jewish Federation Grant Proposal Update. The goals for the grant are to increase community outreach to produce measurable impact on meeting the needs of the community. The Grant Proposal Task Force has met and has been developing the idea of proposing a grant to hold several educational and/or cultural programs throughout the year. To bring a speaker in for a weekend will cost an average of \$5,000 per weekend for stipends, travel, and advertising the event. The task force is proposing to hold at least 4 of these events, and have some very interesting speakers potentially lined up. They would propose to request a grant for \$25,000. Jeff Lewis asked if the grant could be used to provide an inductive loop hearing support device for the congregation. This doesn't really meet the goals of the Jewish Federation Grant, but Ellen encouraged Jeff to get with Michael Lieberman to present some alternatives for addressing hearing needs and possible ways of funding it. This was on the agenda for this meeting, but will be held off until the next Board meeting.
- B. URJ Dues—Board member reports on URJ Site/Services. Board members are encouraged to explore the benefits and resources offered by URJ to see if we are taking full advantage of membership. The URJ is asking \$7900. At the August Board meeting, the Board agreed to pay no less than \$4,000. The URJ is requiring that TBE financial information be provided to them before they will consider a reduction in dues. Pearie Bruder moved to provide the information they are requesting, so that we can negotiate our dues with them. Ann Berkson seconded. The motion carried with one abstention. Allen was then directed by Ellen to complete URJ's Reform Movement Affiliation Commitment (RMAC) online form, which he agreed to do.
- C. Tribute Cards proposed changes. Allen Blum presented the new list of funds on the Tribute card. Pearie Bruder moved to approve the list. Ned Rubin seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Sign-ups for Board Announcements (ongoing)

### **New Business**

- A. Actions resulting from Committee Reports. Jim Rosenthal, Nominating Committee Chair, would like to report to the Board regarding his observations about the effectiveness of the nominating process. He has been reviewing resources for leadership development offered by URJ and other organizations. His observations and recommendations may impact the discussion for the constitutional change in number of board members, below.
- B. Ballot item: Constitutional Change on number of Board Members. The discussion on this item is tabled until we can get a report from Jim Rosenthal to consider this in the larger context of leadership development and Board effectiveness. The discussion and vote can be done electronically.
- C. Inductive Loop Hearing Support Device—Michael Lieberman. To be on agenda for the October board meeting.

- D. Proposal to make Mike Batkin an honorary member of Temple Beth-El in recognition of his generous support. Pearie Bruder moved to make Mike Batkin an honorary member of Temple. Diane Fleishman seconded. Motion carried.

**Guest Comments**

- A. There were no guest comments.

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive Session at 8:45 pm.

- A. New Member Applications
- B. Other issue(s)

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 pm

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2016 @ 6:30 pm –due to the High Holy Days

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2016 @ 7:00pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday