

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: June 23, 2016

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

Trustees Absent: Erich Zameret

Guest(s): Michele Blum, Dee Cook, Steve Halper, Rose Jacobs, Lionel Jacobs

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:02 pm.

Invocation: The Rabbi gave the Invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes. Renee asked for correction of the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting, to show who had seconded the motion to nominate Ellen Torres as President. Pearie Bruder said she did. Diane Fleishman moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Allen Blum seconded. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. President's Report. President Ellen Torres welcomed everyone to our 2016-2017 new Board, thanking everyone for their dedication and service to Temple Beth-El. She congratulated newest members: Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Jeff Lewis (Mensch Club Rep), Michael Lieberman, and Susan Michelson, and also extended congratulations to Ann Berkson and Allen Blum for their reelection.

A set of Board member responsibilities was distributed, and Ellen asked the Board to work together to establish norms related to how we will work together effectively. She asked each member to complete a note card showing 3 norms or expectations they would like to see observed at our meetings. These will be reviewed at our next Board meeting.

Temple Beth-El has had an eventful two months, with the Annual Congregational Meeting held on May 10, election of the new Board members as a slate, and approving the ability of the Board to vote electronically when necessary. There were two more successful Social Action Candidate Forums on May 17 and 24, and a Sisterhood Rummage Sale on May 22. We also observed the passing of two of our beloved congregants, Abe Pomerantz on May 15 and Marianne Zeitlin on June 4. They will be sorely missed.

It has brought to our attention that many of the trolley mechanisms on the hanging doors between the Social Hall and the Sanctuary are failing. Bob Kimball has completed some research and gotten us an estimate from Specialty Doors, Inc. in Redondo Beach, California. He presented me with four options: 1) To really fix the problem, tear down the existing track and buy something heavy duty to really support the heavy doors—

very expensive. 2) Buy the minimum number and replace the worst hangers—would cost \$2,300 and get us by for about 5 years. 3) Buy 40 new hangers and replace all the bad hangers. We would have extras we could use to replace additional hangers as they break. With 40 new assemblies, we could get by for 20 years--\$7,610. 4) Finally, buy 20 hangers so we would have enough parts to get by for many years--\$3,800. Bob is also going to talk to a machinist in Cloudcroft to see if he can make the hangers for us.

New member Rose Jacobs would like to establish a Sunshine Committee where she collects everyone's birthdays, anniversaries, Yahrzeit dates, and sends out cards for those events plus get well cards. It won't cost anything, as she will use one of the free, online greeting card companies like Blue Mountain. I am hoping you will support her in this effort. I would like to give her the go-ahead to do this. She will need access to our database on Rakefet.

Another amazing idea from Lionel and Ruth Jacobs is hosting Shabbat potlucks called Shabbarbecues. They've done this in other congregations with great success, attracting large congregational attendance at Shabbat services. I would like us to consider this idea and come up with a way to make this happen.

The Rabbi's contract identifies "the Rabbi will receive a formal, oral performance review at least annually provided by a committee organized and chaired by the TBE president." To honor this contract point, we will establish a review committee to assess the Rabbi and congregational relationship prior to our Semi-Annual meeting in October, after High Holy Days.

- B. Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi submitted a written report showing his many activities since the last Board meeting, as well as projected activities. He passed around the new advertisement that will be going into the Las Cruces Bulletin Life is Good publication – a very nice representation of our synagogue and our congregation. He also reported on the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, showing total deposits and giving a detailed accounting of expenditures. Much of the fund is used for supporting needs of the Religious School as well as other special or last minute items, or unbudgeted items needed for TBE events and activities. He said it is a convenience to have the fund to use rather than have to buy items with personal funds and submit them for reimbursement.
- C. Treasurer's Report. Allen Blum reported that great progress is being made in utilizing our accounting system, Rakefet, fully and effectively. The new bookkeeper has been extremely helpful. Formerly books were kept on Rakefet and QuickBooks both, but QuickBooks is no longer being used at all. Rakefet is being used for tracking all expenditures, keeping accounts separate and distinct, and for writing checks as well. Restricted funds have been set up for Sisterhood, Youth Groups, Judaica Shop, Rabbi Kane Fund and Mensch Club and for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

These will be separate accounts so that funds will not be co-mingled. Changes and improvements are still being made: the Religious School will have its own budget, a new line item is being added for a Reserve Fund and for a Capital Expenditure Fund. He provided a Balance Sheet and Income/Expense reports from Rakefet showing how the accounts are being tracked.

Committee Reports: 2 minute time limit for reports

- A. Sisterhood Report: Dee Cook gave the Sisterhood report, stating that someone from Sisterhood would be present at Board meetings until the permanent representative to the Board is designated. She reported that the Rummage Sale was not as successful this year as in the past. There were plenty of volunteers, and everything was very well organized; however there just weren't as many customers and the sales were very disappointing. She mentioned that Sisterhood will continue with the grants they had done last year, and that they would also continue with the Campership Fund.
- B. Mensch Club Report: Jeff Lewis reported that the Mensch Club is recommending that TBE participate once again in the Renaissance Fair in November. They will take the lead, although they would like to see members of the congregation volunteer as well. To avoid the issue previously brought up that TBE shouldn't be selling food on the Sabbath, they propose to share booth fees with the Center for Spiritual Living, which would like to participate on Saturday, and to have TBE participate on Sunday. Also, the Mensch Club has planned its next outing for July 26, 2016. They will be going to the War Eagle museum in Santa Teresa, followed by lunch in a restaurant in that vicinity.
- C. Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee: Michele Blum reported that the committee is working on the project to replace the doors in the front of the Temple. They had talked with an artist who proposed using the existing doors and add an artistic metal design that would symbolize a menorah. The committee members were very disappointed when his design was submitted, and did not want to continue with this artist. They began looking again for a door that would be fitting and attractive. They have found a door that is copper on the outside, mahogany on the inside. Some modifications will be required if we go with that door, and the committee is still gathering information to bring to the Board with their proposal.
- D. Adult Education Committee: Ruth Rubin/Rose Jacobs. Ellen Torres, past Chair, submitted a written report.
- E. Budget Committee: Steve Halper presented a proposed budget for the 2016-2017 year projecting a slightly higher income for the new budget year (\$192,600), largely due to the success of the Matzo Ball Golf Tournament and the JFFF fundraisers. Expenses are also projected to increase slightly overall, although some line items are projected to decrease.
- F. Building and Grounds Committee: Jerry Silverman/Norm Mazer/Jeff Lewis. No report this month.
- G. Cemetery Committee: Diane Fleishman. No report this month.
- H. Dues Committee: Michael Mandel. No report this month.
- I. Library Committee: Linda Kruger submitted a written report.
- J. Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee: Allen Blum submitted a written report.
- K. Marketing and Public Relations Committee: Renee Frank reported in place of Terri Sugarman. She distributed the TBE Media Release Template and Media Contact Sheet, explaining that the template should be used for all media releases. Anyone needing help putting together or distributing a media release should contact the TBE Marketing/Public Relations Committee at TBEIcpublicrelations@gmail.com

- L. Membership and Outreach Committee: Diane Fleishman/Leslie Glater. No report this month.
- M. Nominating Committee: Jim Rosenthal. No report this month.
- N. Religious Practices Committee: Jeff Lewis. No report this month.
- O. Religious School Committee: Pearie Bruder submitted a written report.
- P. Security Management Committee: Mark Saltman. No report this month.
- Q. Social Action Committee: Ned Rubin mentioned the upcoming Forum on Poverty scheduled for Sunday, July 24th, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. He also wondered if special mention might be made about the Tsedakah box, especially at special events other than Shabbat services, to remind people that it is there.
- R. Technology Committee: Dave Zeemont. No report this month.
- S. Ways and Mean Committee: Lionel Jacobs. This committee has just been formed – no report this month.
- T. Youth Activities Committee: Julie Seton. No report this month.

Old Business

- A. Update on Door—Allen Blum. Based on Michele Blum’s report, Ned Rubin made a motion to disapprove the artist’s proposal to add a metal design to the existing doors. Sue Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Update on Verizon Proposal. Allen Blum brought the Board up to date on the history of the Verizon proposal to lease some of TBE’s roof space for booster towers. They did an engineering study of the roof, and came in with a first proposal that was rejected by the Board because the towers were too close to the front of the Temple and their presence would have changed the look of the building. They came back with a second proposal that moved the towers further back where they will not interfere with the look of the building. He also mentioned that the lease has been reviewed extensively. They do ask for the potential for access to the building at all times, but the likelihood they will actually need to come into the building is extremely small, as this would be only in the event of a catastrophic event. Their point of contact will be Mark Saltman, the Security Chair, who will help determine how best to accommodate their need. This is a 5-year lease, and TBE will receive \$3600 per year. The lease may be extended up to 20 years, and the lease amount will increase in future years. There is potential to bring in a total of \$90,000 to TBE with little to no downside. The President and Treasurer are moving forward with the signing of the lease.
- C. Sign-ups for Board Announcements. Done.

New Business

- A. Approve New Committee Chairs. Done.
- B. Proposal to change week or day of Board meetings. Ned Rubin moved to change the Board meetings to the 3rd Thursday of the month. Pearie Bruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso—Volunteer of the Year Award. A large contingent from TBE attended their Annual Meeting at Ardovino’s Desert Crossing

restaurant in Sunland Park to recognize our two members who were elected to the Federation's Board, Bill Stein and Dave Zeemont, and to honor our two Volunteers of the Year, Rebecca Berkson and Aggie Saltman for their dedication and work on the JFFF.

- D. Renaissance Arts Faire—The Mensch Club has proposed reestablishing pastrami sandwich booth (deadline July 15) to be shared with Center for Spiritual Living (approx. \$300 fee plus food costs). Pearie Bruder moved to approve moving forward on this; Allen Blum seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- E. TBE Golf Tournament—Matzo Ball Open. This event will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016, at Red Hawk Golf Course.
- F. Union for Reform Judaism Dues (URJ)—4% of our Annual Income to URJ by Jan 1 (approx. \$8,000). This item was tabled to next month.
- G. Tribute Card Funds List—adjustments & revisions. This item was tabled to next month.
- H. Set up Review Committee to assess Rabbi/Congregational Relationship
- I. Reminder to keep all Temple doors closed and locked, and building alarmed, when leaving—the small outside storage closet was left propped open the night prior to the Rummage Sale
- J. Sign Get Well Card for Cyrille Kane. Done.

Guest Comments

A. Lionel Jacobs, the new Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, asked questions about the budget and various accounts, and wondered if the income from the Verizon contract could be used to fund the Capital Expenditure or Reserve fund. He is very interested in finding ways to help TBE make ends meet and looks forward to being involved.

Executive Session

A. There was no Executive Session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, July 11, 2016 @ 6:30 pm (option of electronic meeting)

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2016 @ 7:00pm, 3rd Thursday

Addendum to Minutes: Documentation of Board Electronic Vote on May 29, 2016

Motion 1 via email sent on 5-29-16. Ned Rubin brought the following to the Board’s attention: Camp Hope just lost \$22,000 of their State funding and there are a number of local efforts happening to help make up the difference for them. It is funding that would go toward homeless veterans. The Rabbi thinks that because we already have a relationship with Camp Hope that a donation box at his Memories of 1966 Concert next Saturday 6/4/16 would be a generous gesture, no matter how much money we might raise. Ned moved to have a donation box at the 6/4/16 concert be donated to Camp Hope.

Motion 2 via email sent on 5/29/16. Diane Fleishman moved that the month of June be designated Community of Hope month. Food banks really need donations in the Summer. As Community of Hope just lost significant funding for veterans, money collected should be designated for homeless vets.

Board Member	Motion 1: Donations collected on 6/4 to Camp Hope	Motion 2: June is Camp Hope Month
Ann Berkson	Yes	Yes
Allen Blum	Yes	Yes
Sue Brown	Yes	Yes
Pearie Bruder	Yes	Yes
Diane Fleishman Proposed Motion 2	Yes	Yes
Renee Frank	Yes	Yes
Jeff Lewis	Yes	Yes
Michael Lieberman	No	Yes
Susan Michaelson	Yes	Yes
Ned Rubin Proposed Motion 1	Yes	Yes
Ellen Torres	Yes	Yes
Erich Zameret	Yes	Yes
TOTAL VOTE COUNT	11 YES; 1 NO	12 YES; 0 NO

Adult Education Votes on Donations for Camp Hope to be collected at 6/4 event:

All 7 voted YES