

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: July 21, 2016

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

Trustees Absent: Michael Lieberman

Guest(s): Michele Blum, Steve Halper, Michael Mandel, Rose Jacobs, Lionel Jacobs

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:05 pm.

Invocation: The Rabbi gave the Invocation.

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

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi reported on a very busy summer, including 2 presentations on Rabbi Schmuly Yanklowitz's book, *The Soul of Jewish Social Justice*, a future presentation on Rabbi Jill Jacobs' *There Shall be No Needy*, and a candlelight vigil on July 9 for the victims of shootings in Baton Rouge, St. Paul, Dallas, and Orlando. He serves on the Children's Reading Alliance by-laws committee, has led music at Las Cruces Peace Camp, and convenes a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast, as well as much more.
- B. President's Report. President Ellen Torres reported that while this has been a very glum time for our world with multiple killings and attacks, our little world of Temple Beth-El here in Las Cruces is a primary place of support to find solace, to work with others to bring about social justice, and to pray to God for spiritual support. One positive action that we were able to take was to bring a donation of \$700 to Camp Hope to support the good work they do to help the homeless and downtrodden in our community.

Rose Jacobs has asked to be given permission to send out greeting cards to members; in order to facilitate this, she will meet with Bob Kimball to get needed information from the Rakefet database in order to send out electronic greeting cards to our members for birthdays, anniversaries, etc, at no cost to the Temple. She has offered to volunteer in the Temple office as well to assist the Rabbi with needed tasks. I think it is important to support members with their requests to assist and volunteer, to encourage inclusiveness, and to continue building community engagement and community spirit.

A review committee (comprised of the President and Vice President) has been organized to get feedback from member's regarding the Rabbi's work and relationships with the congregation by interviewing members who have experienced specific contact points, i.e., Bar Mitzvahs, funerals, and committee work.

The list of norms developed by the Board at the last meeting were summarized and handed out for review. Sue Brown moved that the Board accept the norms, minus the point regarding Board meeting discussions remaining in the Board room. Allen Blum seconded. The motion passed.

Ellen reported that the El Paso Jewish Federation is having a grant writing workshop on July 26 at 5:30 in El Paso, to help members submit applications for grants which may be used to further Jewish education, culture or religion. We are encouraged to have someone at the workshop so TBE can take advantage of these grants.

Ellen thanked the Executive Board and the Rabbi for their collaborative work over these past couple of months, as well as dedication and work on behalf of our wonderful Temple.

- C. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Allen Blum reported that progress continues to be made in using Rakefet for the budgeting as well as income and expense reporting for TBE. The TBE Budget for 2016/2017 was presented by Budget Chair Steve Halper. The budget process is now automated through Rakefet, and the funds and accounts now match up with Income/Expense summaries. Several funds which have been regarded as restricted will now be managed as restricted funds through Rakefet. These restricted funds include BETY/BEMY, the Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway, "Send a Kid to Israel", the Library, the Batkin Fund, the Rabbi Kane Fund, and the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Allen moved to accept the budget as presented by Steve Halper. Susan Michelson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. It was discussed that the budget leaves no room for additional or unexpected building expenses, and that as the building gets older, we can expect to see more needed expenditures.

Committee Reports: 2 minute time limit for reports

- A. **Sisterhood Report:** Michele Blum reported for the Sisterhood Council that they are planning a brunch for Women of TBE, and that they are in process of restocking the Judaica Shop. She also reported that grants have been awarded to the Religious School, Library, the Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway, BETY/BEMY, and the PJ Book Club.
- B. **Mensch Club Report:** Jeff Lewis reported for the Mensch Club that the application for a booth at the Renaissance Fair is moving forward. They are coordinating with the Center for Spiritual Living to split the cost of a booth, with The Center conducting business on Saturday, and TBE taking over on Sunday to sell pastrami sandwiches and other items. The Mensch Club believes that participation at the Renaissance Fair will not only be profitable, but that it will help promote TBE in the community.

He also reported that on August 1 there will be a dinner at St. Clair, and they will be inviting the men of TBE and their spouses.

- C. **Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, and Aesthetics Committee:** reported that they are continuing to research the design and cost for new TBE entry doors and hope to have a recommendation for the next meeting.

- D. **Adult Education Committee:** Committee Chair Rose Jacobs submitted a written report showing the tentative schedule for the year. The following events and dates were scheduled for 2016-2017:
- a. September 11, 2016 - Andrea Orzoff - new book - music & musicians from Nazi-occupied Europe to Latin America.
 - b. November 20, 2016 - Interfaith Panel discussion on thoughtfulness/related topics; Rabbi Karol – moderator
 - c. January 29 or February 12, 2017 - 5th annual DALO (Dona Ana lyric opera company) John Carlo Pierce, DMA.
 - d. March 5, 2017 - Daniel Chejfac, Director of the Jewish Federation, topic TBA.
 - e. June 10, 2017 - Sing-a-long with Rabbi Karol and Havdalah.
- E. **Budget Committee:** Steve Halper presented the 2016/2017 budget, which is now automated through Rakefet. Several funds which have been regarded as restricted will now be managed as restricted funds in the budget. These include BETY/BEMY, the Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway, Send a Kid to Israel, the Library fund, the Batkin Fund, the Rabbi Kane Fund, and the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. The budget shows a slight shortfall between income from pledges and fundraisers, and total operating expenses. The budget was approved as presented. While the Board will monitor income and expenses, it is incumbent upon each committee chairperson to also monitor for possible shortfalls in income and possible over commitments in expenses.
- 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:** Dues Committee Chair Michael Mandel, presented a recommendation from that committee to the Board. Based on anticipated needs for additional expenditures in the coming months and years for items needing repair or replacement, including some immediate expenses that have already been identified, the committee recommended that perhaps congregants could be asked to increase their pledges by 10%. The additional funds would allow TBE to set up a reserve account that would be used to cover additional building expenses required to keep the building safe, comfortable, and operational. The Board reviewed and approved a draft letter to be sent out to Congregants regarding the need for funds to cover additional expenses. Pearie Bruder moved to send out the letter as edited. Ann Berkson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. **Library Committee:** Linda Kruger reported the Library has responded to Sisterhood 's grant application requesting a new multi function printer, which is urgently needed to replace the 10 yr. old current one that prints only in black & white & cannot copy, scan, fax, print envelopes, etc. She also reported that Library cataloging has reached 1,900 title mark. In the Fall congregants will be able to access many library holdings via e-mail.
- J. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Allen Blum. No report this month.

- K. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** No report this month.
- L. **Membership and Outreach Committee:** Diane Fleishman. 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.
- P. **Security Management Committee:** Mark Saltman. No report this month.
- Q. **Social Action Committee:** Ned Rubin reminded everyone of the upcoming Forum on Poverty scheduled for Sunday, July 24th, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.
- R. **Technology Committee:** Dave Zeemont. No report this month.
- S. **Ways and Mean Committee:** Lionel Jacobs submitted a written report, including budget proposals for existing fundraisers (Matzo Ball Open, JFFF, and Biblical Garden and Brick Walkway) as well as a proposed new fundraiser called 52/\$100. The 52/\$100 idea was presented to the committee by new chair Rose Jacobs to get a feel as to whether the idea was viable or not. All agreed that we should proceed and details of the evening will become apparent to the congregation as it is promoted to all once the date has been established.
- T. **Youth Activities Committee:** Julie Seton submitted a written report stating:
 - a. They have applied for a Sisterhood grant to kick-start the new BETY-Do's project/program.
 - b. They identified more than 12 separate activities that will be proposed to the students for the coming year. This includes six NFTY events that we will encourage the students to attend, four "standard" TBE Youth events, and at least four fundraising activities.

Old Business

- A. Update on Door – Michele Blum and Ann Berkson reported that they are continuing to research possible aesthetic door designs. An iron door is more expensive than a wood door, but they have questions about the upkeep of a wooden door. They shared a design by Artistic Entryways, Inc. of Sunland Park.

They shared a request by John Northcutt, whose design had been voted down by the Board at the last meeting, for reimbursement of \$300 for design services, even though his design was not selected. Ann moved to have Renee Frank, as a representative of TBE Board of Trustees, to meet with Mr. Northcutt to try to address the misunderstanding. Susan Michelson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Update on Verizon Proposal. Allen Blum reported that Verizon has scheduled an inspection of the roof for asbestos and lead based paint. They project the system to be installed some time in 2017.

- C. Tribute Card Funds List—adjustments & revisions. It was agreed that this discussion would take place electronically by email, with results to be presented at the next Board meeting.
- D. Sign-ups for Board Announcements. It was agreed that this would be done by email. Board members are encouraged to sign up for their dates by notifying Renee Frank, Secretary, by email.

New Business

- A. Proposal for addressing non-functioning trollies on doors from Sanctuary into Social Hall. Ellen reported that Bob Kimball has received a proposal to rebuild the trolleys on the doors from the Sanctuary to the Social Hall, for \$2800. This is substantially less than quotes received from the manufacturer of the trolleys. Susan Michelson moved to accept the proposal. Ann Berkson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Guest Comments

- A. Aside from Committee Reports, there were no guest comments.

Executive Session:

- A. There was no Executive Session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, August 8, 2016 @ 6:30 pm (option of electronic meeting)

Date of next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, August 18, 2016 @ 7:00pm, 3rd Thursday

Addendum to Minutes: Electronic Vote:

The Mensch Club has proposed to operate a booth at the November 5-6 Annual Renaissance Faire in conjunction with the Center for Spiritual Living, who will run the booth on Saturday, November 5 (with different food items), and the TBE Mensch Club will run the booth on Sunday, November 6.

The booth would sell pastrami sandwiches, hot dogs, and a dessert baked at the Temple. Dave is going to talk to Aggie, Rebecca, or some other Temple folks about baking a dessert that could be a decent sales item.

The expenses that need to be covered are:

- \$35 application fee
- \$675 oversized space booth fee
- \$50 decoration deposit fee
- \$50 cleaning deposit fee that is refundable after the end-of-Faire inspection on Sunday November 6 if the space is left clean.

The Mensch Club has requested an advance of the funds needed by TBE, and agrees that the \$810 in fees will be paid back, plus they agree to turn over all profits in a donation to Temple Beth-El, minus \$300 for the Mensch Club for fronting the event, organizing the event, and staging the event.

After the event ends, The Center for Spiritual Living will reimburse us their half of the expenses. The costs for start up and food costs will be determined, and the donation will be made to Temple Beth-El minus the \$300 for the Mensch Club.

On July 9, 2016, Ellen Torres made a motion by email to accept the Mensch Club's proposal. Renee Frank seconded it. Ten Board members voted yes, with Ann Berkson and Allen Blum commenting but not registering a vote either way.

The motion passed, although there were some reservations and requests for a written agreement between TBE and the Center for Spiritual Living for the split booth. The Board is recommending that if the Booth goes forward, an agreement be developed to clarify relationships and expectations with the Center for Spiritual Development.