

Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

MINUTES

August 16, 2018

Trustees Present: Jeff Brown, Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, Luke Duddridge, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis, Michael Mandel, Ruth Rubin, Ellen Torres, Joanne Turnbull, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Ned Rubin

Guest(s): Dave Decker

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:06 pm.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol led the Board in a responsive invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes: Pearie Bruder moved accepting the July 19, 2018 Board minutes, and Luke Duddridge seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi distributed a report about his activities. He has purchased a sound system (microphone, speaker and inputs) for our programs. The Religious School will have a Sunday-only schedule this year and has 19 students. Rhonda Karol, Sarah Mindlin and the Rabbi (for Hebrew students) will teach, and we will need a Gan teacher. The Rabbi noted that parts are being allotted for High Holy Day services and that the choir will perform on Erev Rosh Hashanah. The Rabbi and Rhonda will travel to New York City for the installation of their daughter-in-law Juli as assistant rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City on October 11-15.
- B. President's Report. President Ellen Torres noted our discussions on August 12 about leadership and said that measures would be developed to gauge success in this project. She urged Board members to come to the three workshops. Ellen discussed Norms and passed out copies of our Norms document. She noted that Mike Batkin had donated an additional \$5,400 to fund the principal in the Irving Batkin scholarship fund. Three Camperships were given this year. Jeff Lewis urged everyone to thank Mike Batkin for his generosity. Ellen discussed the Board calls to thank TBE members for their participation in the Temple, and she passed out calling lists and a guideline. She noted that the Strategic Planning Committee's report will be discussed at the September 20 Board meeting.
- C. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Michael Mandel discussed our budget. His handouts compared the first six weeks from last year and this year. Dues collections are much higher. He noted that members can send checks to TBE via QuickBooks.

Committee Reports: Written reports are attached to these minutes. Guest Dave Decker presented several Building & Grounds matters. He said that he had discussed our contractors with Jerry Silverman, who is away until November. All contracts are verbal, and some contractors will only speak with Jerry. He wants to personally discuss matters with some contractors such as the cleaning crew, and he will keep in contact with the Board. Dave is handling maintenance responsibilities such as grass cutting. Dave fixed a pothole and removed a dead bush. He has purchased painting supplies. He plans to plant a new bush to replace the dead bush, paint parking lot lines, and build a small wall to keep sand from moving into the garbage and recycling area. The Board thanked Dave for his work.

Old Business:

The Renaissance Faire application and check have been submitted. We discussed potential formats and dates for a Deli Dinner. Potential dates might be around February 10, but decisions will be deferred until after a meeting this month of the Ways and Means Committee. Jeff Brown will ask Dave Zeemont for his best sense of the number of TBE members who will need to work at a Deli fundraiser under either a carry-out format or a combined dine-in-and-carry-out format. The Board also began to discuss a January Congregational Dinner.

Cheryl Decker is writing an Adelante column in September. Joanne Turnbull agreed to write the October column and Luke Duddridge agreed to write the November column. Board members signed up for announcement dates.

Ellen reminded Board members that it is very important that they welcome all people who attend religious services. The Board discussed the History play. Dee Cook asked whether History Committee members can meet with Wil Kilroy while he is writing the script. Jeff Brown will seek to set this up.

The Board discussed the October 20 Golf Tournament. Jeff Lewis reminded members that it is vital for them to attend as many TBE functions as they can.

Ellen Torres asked Board members to think about topics for the next grant proposals to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. The Board discussed some potential speakers or performers. Jeff Brown will ask Bill Stein and Monika Kimball if they may know when the next JFGEP grant proposals are due.

We will ask Steven Haydu whether he could serve as the new Webmaster.

New Business:

URJ has agreed to allow a flat rate of \$4,000 for our annual payments. Michael Mandel will seek to determine how many years this agreement will cover.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Date of Next Executive Board Meeting: **Tuesday, September 4 @ 6:00 pm** at Temple

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: **Thursday, September 20 @ 7:00 pm** at Temple.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown

Committee and Group Reports:

Acquisitions, Specific Gifts, Aesthetics, Ann Berkson, chair: The chair said that there is nothing new to report.

Adult Education, Ned Rubin, chair: The report is included in the Social Action Committee report.

Building and Grounds, Jerry Silverman, Norm Mazer and Jeff Lewis, chairs: David Decker continues to be doing a great job maintaining the TBE facility during Jerry's summer vacation absence to Minnesota. He has provided the following information: David has made and installed a sign on the dumpster doors, "PLEASE KEEP DOORS CLOSED." The fountain quit working, but was repaired. It had a kinked hose. Weeds were pulled from TBE yard and weed killer was sprayed along the curb. A dead bush was removed from the east side of building, and David will buy new a bush and plant it in the same place. David will repaint the parking lot lines. He has bought the paint and supplies needed for the task. Some doors were getting hard to unlock or open. All of the doors have been lubricated to assure their operation.

Michael Mandel is trying different things to reduce the budget. David has been working with him on the maintenance end to help. He is going to talk to the cleaning lady (Sandra) about cleaning the building only once a week rather than twice a week. The Mensch Club members are checking bathrooms cleanliest to assess the need for outside cleaning help. He will also continue to contact Wasser & Wasser (outside grounds and parking lot maintenance) for cost savings opportunities.

Cemetery, Diane Fleishman, chair: Diane has learned that two plots have been sold.

History, Jeff Brown, chair: Jeff Brown, Ellen Torres and Rabbi Karol have met with Wil Kilroy to discuss the play that he is writing about TBE history. It will be performed at NMSU at 2:00 on Sunday, October 7, followed by a panel discussion. Jeff bought a wireless scanner for the Committee with funds granted to the Committee by Sisterhood. He will seek to schedule a committee meeting (with telephone participation by one or more distant members) to discuss scanning and other activities. The Committee and TBE will bring in a guest panel from the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society to discuss the NMJHS oral history project. The panel is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 30. Richard Melzer from NMJHS will discuss the swastika in New Mexico history and culture on March 10, and we have begun discussions with NMJHS about the possibility of bringing in an

additional speaker about Jewish gangsters. The latter was previously voted the number 2 choice of the Board for a future NMJHS speaker.

Membership, Diane Fleishman, chair: Diane has reached out to three potential members.

Nominating, Jim Rosenthal, chair: Board members learned about the committee's leadership workshops when they attended the August 12 meeting.

Religious Affairs, Jeff Lewis, chair: The committee met at the end of July. We discussed times for High Holiday Services and the assigning of parts for services. We broke into groups to stuff envelopes to mail to congregants for the High Holidays.

Sisterhood, Cheryl Decker, secretary: Four members attended the June 26 meeting. Discussions included the distribution of the yahrzeit list, the Sisterhood Rummage Sale and the Sisterhood Luncheon. Ruth Rubin provided a list of cards that she has recently sent to congregants. Five members attended the July 26 meeting. They discussed the Sisterhood Rummage Sale and Luncheon.

Social Action, Ned Rubin, chair: The chair provided an update about the latest public communication from the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation in El Paso.

Discussion resulted in finalizing dates for the political forums we will sponsor in the fall. We agreed that we would like to have 2 forums, held on Tuesday evenings, October 9 and October 16. Because there are so many contested races, we decided that we could invite only those running for four offices. We are going to invite the gubernatorial candidates; candidates for congressional district 2; candidates for the Public Regulation Commission; and candidates for Doña Ana County sheriff. Contact with each of those candidates will be made right away. Our next meeting will be spent developing questions for each of the candidates running for these offices.

Further discussion took place about the project on "Walls." However, due to time constraints, we have decided to wait until after the beginning of the new year to present our program, which is still being developed.

Finally, we discussed a new initiative taking place in Las Cruces regarding the impact of trauma on a variety of long-term problems we face. A possible Wednesday morning breakfast presentation was discussed to inform people about trauma and its effects, as well as what Las Cruces, as other cities in the U.S., is planning to do to change this problem which underlies so many of our social difficulties.

Strategic Planning, Renee Frank, chair: The Strategic Planning Committee is wrapping up its work and finalizing a report that will be presented to the Board on September 20.

Youth, Leora Zeitlin, chair: There have been no recent activities, but Amalia Zeitlin will begin fall activities later in August.