

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

MINUTES

September 20, 2018

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:02 p.m.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol led the Board in the invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ned Rubin moved accepting the August 16, 2018 Board Minutes, and Luke Duddridge seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leadership/Board Reports

Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi distributed a report about his activities. He discussed the High Holy Days. Chava Mirel will perform contemporary Jewish music at the Temple on Friday night, October 6. The Rabbi and Rhonda Karol 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 11-14, 2018. He has registered for a music/worship workshop in Wisconsin on November 1-4, 2018 and will probably attend the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis convention early in January 2019 and the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Cincinnati on March 31-April 3, 2019.

President's Report. President Ellen Torres thanked everyone involved in High Holy Day services and the break fast. She discussed the Matzoh Ball tournament. We have raised \$2,700 so far from hole sponsorships, and Phil Alkon has contacted a number of restaurants about gift donations. She encouraged Board members to contact golfer friends to play golf and potential local vendors to donate raffle items such as gift certificates. She noted that Francine Feinberg and Rose Jacobs will lead JFFF this year, and that Susan Michelson and Susan Quinn will organize JFFF volunteers. She thanked Board members for their calls and messages to Temple members thanking them for all that they do for the Temple. She discussed aspects of the October 7 play, including Nan Rubin's work on slides and music; our need to organize the panel discussion; Irv and Barb Ross's role in developing the questionnaire and arranging for ushers; publicity; arranging videotaping; and paying students to handle the light and sound boards.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Michael Mandel discussed our budget. Dues have been coming in at a fast rate. We discussed making more prompt payments of bills from vendors and others. He will speak with the accountant. We also discussed the use by members of Merrill Lynch accounts for dues payments.

Committee Reports: Written reports are attached to these minutes. Luke Duddridge mentioned that there will be a Mensch Club meeting on October 21.

Old Business:

We discussed potential shares of revenues for the Center for Spiritual Living if they participate in the Renaissance Faire deli booth operations on Saturday, November 3. Our consensus based on their past work was a 20% share, but this could be increased in a future year if their work warrants this. Dave Zeemont and Michael Mandel will speak with the Center's representatives. The Rabbi asked for announcements about the Faire booth for the Adelante, and Dee Cook suggested that we need 8 participants per shift. Jeff Lewis asked for help on November 5 or 6 putting Faire materials away.

President Ellen reminded Board members about future Adelante personal columns. Luke Duddridge will write the October column and Joanne Turnbull will write the November column.

We discussed possible ideas for Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso grant applications. They are due by October 7. Among suggested speakers or performers at the Temple, members seemed most interested in Julie Silver and Rabbi Ken Cantor.

In a brief report on the condition of his recently hospitalized wife, Dave Decker said that Cheryl Decker is recovering. Members were delighted to learn this. Dave was attending to give a report on Building and Grounds. He suggested that we could save money by installing water irrigation valves. He proposed to expand the number of parking lot spaces reserved for disabled drivers. Jeff Lewis moved that the Board pay for two disabled parking signs. Michael Mandel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. We discussed the possibility of using a smaller dumpster, but we share it with Sonoma Springs Covenant Church. President Ellen asked Michael Mandel to learn more about city requirements. We discussed installing small solar-powered lights along the driveway so drivers entering the Temple area can see the road. Michael Mandel moved getting Dave Decker a \$300 pre-paid Visa card that can be reloaded when Michael finds this necessary. This will help in Dave's payments to vendors and shops. We discussed developing written contracts with contractors that include their provision of workmen's compensation for employees. President Ellen will meet with Dave Decker and Jerry Silverman when he returns to discuss this step. We thanked Dave Decker for all of his work.

We discussed selling some Library books after Linda Kruger returns and determines which books she will de-accession. We discussed clearing space in the storage room near the Bimah. Ned Rubin will publicize the October candidate forums that will be held at the Temple. We discussed the need for a Renaissance Faire workers meeting.

Ned Rubin suggested live streaming Temple services and perhaps Board meetings. URJ would host the Web site. Steve Haydu is now the Temple Webmaster and will begin posting materials in a week. President Ellen will set up a meeting to discuss communications and publicity with Steve, the Rabbi, Aggie Saltman, herself, Jeff Brown and Jeff Lewis.

New Business:

Jim Rosenthal reviewed comments made by Board and other members about his Leadership questionnaire. The Board concurred that we need to be active and do things, not simply agree to try to accomplish things.

Susan Brown, Joanne Turnbull and Dee Cook represented the Ways and Means Committee. The Committee proposed holding a silent auction on January 26 in which TBE members would bid for personal services and events arranged by TBE members such as dinner in a home, or a literary discussion, or dog-walking. Members would pay \$5 each to attend the January 26 event. This concept has been a very successful fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces. The annual Congregational Dinner, which is usually held in January, could perhaps be moved to May.

Board members discussed the services-auction idea. One suggested calling our first annual auction the "Oyction Auction." Jeff Lewis moved that TBE move forward on this, and Luke Duddridge seconded the motion and asked for a timeline by the next Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved by consensus allowing Luke Duddridge to use the printer to print certificates of Mensch Club membership that will be given to bar mitzvah boys.

The Board welcomed Anne Weinberg and Rob Goldsteen, Steven Marcus and Robin Rhodes, and Corry McKissack to Temple membership.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Date of Next Executive Board Meeting: **Monday, October 8 @ 6:00 p.m.** at Temple

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: **Thursday, October 18 @ 7:00 p.m.** 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 my summer vacation absence to Minnesota. He has provided me with the following information.

1. Cleaned accumulated sand on the parking lot.
2. Irrigation repair of broken waterline.
3. Repaired loose carpet at closet doors and dining room closet.
4. Removed bird nests outside the west entry doors and cleaned the area.
5. Repaired the door stop on the double doors going into the sanctuary.
6. Began parking lot marking.
7. Replaced a plant on the West side of the building. Dave was kind enough to donate the plant.

Dave is planning to meet with the Board to resolve issues with timely repayment of expenses.

Landscaping services by Wasser & Wasser will terminate at the end of September. Dave will be maintaining the outside area until my return in mid-November.

History, Jeff Brown, chair: Jeff Brown, Ellen Torres. Rabbi Karol, Dee Cook, Susan Michelson and Nan Rubin met with Wil Kilroy to discuss the play about TBE history. It will be performed at NMSU at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 7, followed by a panel discussion. The group made recommendations for the draft script that Wil will adopt. Jeff and Nan met to plan slide copying and the purchase of materials for TBE photograph storage. These slides will be used during the play. 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 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30.

Library, Linda Kruger, chair: Library project to do major shifting of books on left wall of Library will commence after October 3, and hopefully before November. The Mensch Club will be asked to help, and possibly the teenagers will be too. Only the Young Adult shelves will be boxed and stored elsewhere in the Temple. That will free an entire shelf section to the left of the corner computer to house newly cataloged Judaica. The entire left wall upon entering has already been carefully vetted.

The second (and less important, perhaps) areas to discard and shift will be adult fiction and adult biography. That may not happen until late winter. It depends on the availability of the volunteers who said they'd vet the adult fiction.

Major supplies were ordered by Dave Zeemont this summer from Demco, purveyor only of library supplies. I am grateful to him for fronting the money since the Temple no longer has a credit card. Mike Mandel reimburses him. In the past I have done so.

Membership, Diane Fleishman, chair: Two new member families will be presented to the Board at the September meeting.

Mensch Club, Luke Duddridge, representative: The Club raised \$70 with a movie presentation. The club has decided to give each Bar Mitzvah a gift certificate good for one year of membership in the club. This gift will be extended to all current and future Bar Mitzvahs and to all Bar Mitzvahs from the previous three years. There have been two meetings since the last report and no other activities.

Nominating, Jim Rosenthal, chair: The Nominating Committee is preparing for the first of three upcoming leadership training programs. The first session, "Defining Spirituality," scheduled for Sunday, October 28 at 2 p.m., is to be led by Rabbi Larry Karol. The second, "Leadership Styles and Skills," is Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m. and will be led by Ellen Torres. The third, "Exploring our Temple," is Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m. and is to be led by Sue Brown. In addition to trustees and other temple leaders, we will invite all members of the congregation to attend these sessions, which, as you know, are designed to provide training and education for new and current board of trustee members and committee chairs and also to encourage greater interest in leadership among congregants. It's also designed to provide everyone with an opportunity to get together and learn more about the temple and Judaism.

Religious Affairs, Jeff Lewis, chair: The Religious Practices Committee did not meet in August. We will probably schedule a meeting late in September.

Religious School, Pearie Bruder, chair: We held our first day of classes on September 16. There were two Hebrew classes and the Machon class (Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah) that met at 9:00-10:00 am. Our community/assembly time at 10:00-10:30 a.m. brings all students/teachers together (3 faculty, 8 Machon students, 11 students in First Grade through 6th grade). This past Sunday, we had a communal snack at 10:30. The 1st-6th grade students met at 10:40 am-12:30 p.m. Our pilot project in this new schedule worked well. We are still working out an arrangement for our 2 youngest students - there are possibilities we have to explore.

We are working on arranging security, as the person who provided it last year won't be returning in that capacity. We welcomed one new family, the Goldsteens, and the Baudo children from Ruidoso may join us periodically.

Religious School families will meet at 4 pm on Sunday, September 23 to create Sukkah decorations that will be put up immediately on the Sukkah. Our Sukkot Evening service will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will be followed by a pizza dinner.

Classes will resume on Sunday on September 30, and then on October 14, 21 and 28.

Social Action, Ned Rubin, chair: We have agreed that we would like to have 2 forums, held on Tuesday evenings, October 9 and October 16. Because there are so many races being contested, we decided that we could invite only those running for four offices. We have been unable to get the gubernatorial candidates to participate, so we have invited candidates for NM House districts 35 & 37. We are still awaiting a response from candidates for Congressional district 2. Both candidates for the Public Regulation Commission have committed to come and one candidate for Doña Ana County Sheriff has committed and we are awaiting a commitment from the other. The remainder of this meeting was spent developing topics and questions for each of the candidates running for these offices. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 26 at 1:30 pm at TBE.

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 in October.

Youth, Leora Zeitlin, chair: The BEMY/BETY teens are in the midst of their annual High Holiday food drive, and they hope to collect several hundred pounds of food for Casa de Peregrinos during the holidays. Several teens came to a meeting and ice cream party on Saturday afternoon, September 15, to plan the year's activities. Amalia Zeitlin is their advisor again this year. They are planning some great activities for this fall, so stay tuned!

Ways and Means, Cheryl Decker, Dee Cook, Joanne Turnbull and Susan Brown, co-chairs: The Ways and Means Committee met on August 21, 2018 with all committee chairs attending.

Discussion was again held regarding our upcoming proposed project. Discussion held on having TBE Board Members becoming actively involved in the project and what events, activities, or services might be offered. Examples were given by each W&M Committee chairs of what they might commit to offering. Proposed date to have event and further discussion will be needed between committee and Board President Ellen Torres and Rabbi Karol. No official name for the event has been proposed and suggestions are welcomed.

A request to speak at next Board Meeting was approved and a meeting with Ellen was held on September 8, 2018. Joanne Turnbull reported she had spoken with Rabbi Karol regarding the official time of sunset on January 26, 2019.