

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

MINUTES

August 15, 2019

Trustees Present: Cheryl Decker, Dave Decker, Dee Cook, Michael Mandel, Nan Rubin, Steve Haydu, Ruth Rubin, Pearie Bruder, Rabbi Larry Karol, ex-officio.

Luke Duddridge, Joanne Turnbull, Lynn Zeemont

Trustees Absent: Martha Roditti, Barbara Berger

Guests: Jeff Brown, Mike Lieberman, Marieke Brown, Marlene Benz

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Decker at 6:05pm.

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

Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes from last month were accepted with amendments.

Board went into executive session to discuss prospective new member.

Board returned to regular session and voted unanimously to accept new member Joel Siegel.

Rabbi's report: Mailing for Religious School will be sent out soon. Religious Practices Committee met to finalize mailing for High Holy Days, and to discuss strategies for coming year. Rabbi is beginning a series of classes on the Shabbat evening prayer service for learners and potential leaders, beginning Tuesday, August 20th, at 7pm. Tanakh study class on Wednesdays has finished the book of Nehemiah and will move into the book of Jonah. The Friday Interfaith book group will be discussing Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths, by Bruce Feiler, beginning August 23.

Rabbi and Beth Tierney are still working out how best to share files so they can work on the Adelante together.

Treasurer's report: There has been an influx of funds, so this month looks a bit better than last month. Luke asked for more information regarding the cost of running the fountain. It was generally agreed that the fountain should run for a few hours daily and Dave Decker will set up/adjust a timer and look into solar energy options to accommodate energy costs.

Committee Reports: Sisterhood- Lynn Zeemont asked if we want to share sponsorship of Matzo Ball Golf Tournament with another charitable organization. Last year we worked with Mesilla Valley Hospice, and the Board opted to stay with that organization if they are interested. The date for the Tournament is November 10th, tee time is 9 am. [Send checks to buy a hole to Dee. Same price as last year.]

Social Action Committee- The board received a letter from the committee asking for the Board's support as they pursue more active work helping our larger community. There was discussion of

working with an immigrant assistance group, though Rabbi said he had heard that Churches should 'stand down' on this as the City is able to handle the immigrant influx, which has decreased significantly.

NOTE: Secretary did not receive the report for the Social Action Committee in time for the Monthly Board meeting, therefore it is provided in full at the end of the minutes. – upcoming from the Social Action Committee is an educational presentation by the County Clerk on ranked choice voting. The event will be held on September 17th, 6:30 – 8pm.

History Committee – Jeff Brown presented for the committee, explained the Deed of Gift to NMSU of archival material, and discussed potential speakers for programs at the temple. Jeff mentioned a speaker on Jewish gangsters. Nan suggested Debbie Prince as a potential speaker, who has researched Portuguese Crypto-Jews smuggling chocolate to Europe. Also discussed was applying for a grant from Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

Finance working group had a productive meeting with Jennifer the bookkeeper and they were able get the information they requested.

Votes:

1. Nan moved to accept the committee reports, Dee seconded, it passed unanimously.
2. Luke moved to support the Social Action Committee in their efforts, motion passed.

Old Business

Announcements sign-up sheet passed around.

Mike Lieberman presented 3 cost proposals for installing a hearing loop in the temple. 1. Just the sanctuary, 2. Just the social hall, 3. Both areas. Equipment would include an amplifier and wire, \$3100-\$3200 for one room just for the wiring, \$6200 for both rooms. An estimate for rug work (installing the wire involves pulling up a narrow swath of carpet, placing the wire, and replacing with carpeting of contrasting color) came in at \$4700. Mike recommends doing both rooms at once. Current estimate of donations that could come in might be \$4-5000. The temple is unable to commit to the level of funding needed for this project at this time, if additional donations or opportunities arise the board will revisit this option.

New Business

- Joanne Turnbull proposed inviting the various leadership groups and committees to sponsor Onegs, all present were in favor of this idea.
- Cheryl and Joanne reported on the need for Sexual Abuse/Harassment and Child Protection policies. The new insurance carrier requires that we have them. Joanne is researching and preparing these policies.

- Cheryl reported that there is a reorganization in progress regarding the Transition committee, and more information will be forthcoming.

Guests

Marieke Brown and Marlene Benz attended the Board meeting to discuss concerns regarding communication between the Board and the Religious School parents. Marlene also addressed our lack of a mitzvah group that can assist temple members or visit them as needed. When she needed some assistance getting around, she didn't know who to call from the temple. The board will begin addressing this issue promptly.

Also mentioned was the need to get word out to the congregation to let a member of the board or the Rabbi know if they need transportation for High Holy Days services, or Sabbath services for that matter.

Meeting was Adjourned 7:30