

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

MINUTES

November 21, 2019

Trustees Present: Cheryl Decker, Joanne Turnbull, Michael Mandel, Steve Haydu, Barbara Berger, Dee Cook, Dave Decker, Luke Duddridge, Martha Roditti, Nan Rubin, Ruth Rubin, Pearie Bruder, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Lynn Zeemont

Guest(s):

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Decker at 6:07 p.m.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol led the Board in the invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes: Martha moved to accept the October 18, 2018 Board Minutes, and Steve seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leadership/Board Reports

Rabbi's Report. Finished the 4 series Shabbat Prayer class, 4 adult bar/bat mitzvah students.

Days set for lay leadership – Feb. 14-15, Mar 20-21, May 29-30. Interfaith conversation date in November 24, Neomi Summers will be in town December 3-10 and is willing to speak on Yemenite Jewry. Discussion by the board resulted in Thursday, December 5th in the evening being the best option, Chanukah Shabbat event like usual.

Upcoming bar/bat mitzvahs: There are 2 bar/bat Mitzvahs scheduled after the Rabbi's retirement and he requested the board's approval to return to preside at these, per the parent's request.

Nan moved Joanne seconded and board approved unanimously that the board supports the Rabbi coming back to do the last 2 b'nai mitzvot.

Treasurer's Report: Michael presented the Profit & Loss

Pearie moves that we replace the money we borrowed from the Schwab account, Michael seconded, board approved unanimously.

Nan moved we approve the report and Martha seconded, report approved unanimously.

Transition Team report: Discussion about part-time rabbi options, and what the options are, what we want and what can we afford. The search team welcomes all questions. More surveys need to be done, and the board recommends that communication team coordinate surveys.

We are waiting to hear of grant decision. Ruth shared experience of being a part of a congregation that had a student rabbi who came once or twice a month and it was wonderful.

Cheryl asked about cyber security. The board feels we should get an external hard drive for the Temple office computer. The Transition Tech Team representative will let the Team know and if there is no objection, they can pick up a hard drive.

Religious school encourages input by members – invited to meetings.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds – replaced lights outside, added filter to kitchen water, installed a timer on water heater, and added motion sensitive lights in the restrooms.

Security- Steve moved that we approve the proposals Mark put forth at last meeting, Luke seconded, approved unanimously.

Mensch Club – Currently, the Mens club have been doing clean-up of grounds, Dave suggested we hire a landscaping company during the fall, to do a full clean-up as it is a particularly big job this time of year, the board approved this expense.

Membership committee – Barbara presented the current procedures for integrating new members, there were some corrections and additions, she will put together a new document that includes suggestions and details added by board members.

Social Action – report attached

Luke moved to approve the committee reports, Michael seconded, approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- Camp Hope breakfast – Luke moved for Dave to look at renting gas grills/stove to avoid electrical disaster from last year, Michael seconded, approved unanimously.
- Survey after reviewing the results of the Friday Service Start Time Survey, the religious practices transition team recommended moving the Service time to 6:30 with an oneg following the service. The board agreed that we should try this for rest of the winter.
- The minutes get posted to the website after they are approved by the board at the following meeting. We had a request to make a change in the minutes for August. Pearie motioned and Luke seconded approved making the change to the minutes.

New Business

- Interim Rabbi Search Team – Joanne shared: 1) a job description for a student rabbi written for the grant submitted to the Jewish Federation of El Paso, and 2) information

on three rabbinical colleges that place students with congregations: the Academy for Jewish Religion (Los Angeles), Hebrew Union College (Los Angeles), and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (Philadelphia). Each school has different terms of service (i.e., how long a student can be with the congregation) and cost for placement. A team has been formed and will meet on December 1 to decide which school to work with for a student who will serve from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. Members are: Bill Stein, chair; Arthur Berkson, Marieka Brown, Stuart Kelter and Joanne Turnbull.

- Requirements for Board Membership – Joanne brought up the question of members who live in Las Cruces part-time serving on the Board of Trustees. The board decided to table the question for later date and to do a review of the bylaws' requirements for board membership prior to the discussion.

The Board entered Executive session 8:01 to discuss new member.

Board came out of executive session at 8:04.

Martha moved to approve new member, Luke seconded, the Board approved unanimously.

New member: Robert Zeemont, brother of Dave Zeemont.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:06

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Haydu, Secretary