

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
January 7th, 2002

Attendees:

Cheryl Asnis	Mitch Frumkin	Jodi Marcou
Janice Baer	Madeline Gaynor	Cantor Bruce Rockman
Arie Behar	Cindy Gittleman	Harold Schneider
Gary Bergman	Ann Gold	Lisa Tannenbaum
Larry Cohen	Dan Greenberg	Gary Tinkel
Marc Dillman	Naomi Jackenthal	LouAnne Wolf
Jerry Edley	Jerry Kaminsky	Keith Zimmerman
Harvey Finkelstein	Mark Kasdin	

Not Attending:

Elliot Danto	Hadas Elami	Rabbi David Eligberg
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Non-Board Guests

Mark Binder

Call to Order [Mitch Frumkin]

Meeting called to order at 8:03 PM by Mitch Frumkin.

Approval of Minutes of December 3rd, 2001 Meeting [All]

Motion for Approval of Minutes [moved by N. Jackenthal, second by L. Wolf].
Approved [21 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention]

Dvar Torah [Cantor Rockman]

[Rabbi Eligberg is away; Cantor Rockman delivered D'var Torah. Due to technical reasons, text is temporarily unavailable.]

President's Report [M. Frumkin]

1. Jesse Olitsky was just elected international president USY! There will be an article in next month's Hakol. Please give him and his parents a mazel tov if you see him. We will also be putting up a large photo of him in the hallway. Lisa will be coordinating.
2. The visit by the Mayor of Ramla was very well received – thanks to all who worked hard to make this event succeed.
3. The sign up sheets for the Partnership for Environmental Quality are available.
4. There have been a number of questions about the late Sidney Nevin's contribution to the capital campaign; his family has promised we will get the money by the 11th of this month.

Expansion Committee Report [M. Kasdin]

Mitch Frumkin and Marc Dillman made the presentation at the congregational meeting – they both did an excellent job. For those who were unable to attend, we have \$900K to work with; current bids are over \$2M. we believe we can get the bids down to \$1.3M or \$1.4M, and have told the congregation that we would be back by

February with a plan. There will be a meeting of the entire committee tomorrow night.

M. Frumkin: the packets that were sent to the Board for review include a resolution regarding bond financing, which mentions \$2M. this is NOT the amount that we will borrow, but represents an upside limit.

Motion [by H. Schneider, second by J. Baer] to adopt the resolution regarding Middlesex County Industrial Development Authority Revenue Bonds (see attached).

Question [A. Gold]: Does the whole congregation have to approve this resolution or just the Board? Just the Board.

Question [H. Finkelstein]: Isn't this considered a loan – which we are not allowed to do? No – it's just a funding mechanism.

Question [J. Kaminsky]: My understanding was that we would not be borrowing any money at all. This is not borrowing – it's being able to borrow the money needed to start construction before we have received all the money that has been pledged.

Question [G. Tinkel]: Why are we doing this instead of going to the bank? 2% lower interest rate.

Motion passes [21 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain].

J. Marcou: Thank you very much to Mitch, Marc and Nark for the great presentation at the Congregational Meeting.

High Holiday Appeals Task Force [L. Cohen]

In October, the question was raised about the content and number of High Holiday Appeals. A task force, consisting of L. Cohen, A. Gold, J. Schwartz and Rabbi Eligberg reviewed each appeal at length with an eye towards streamlining.

They recommend we keep them as is, with certain restrictions as to timing and length. There are 8 appeals spread over the 4 High Holidays, and they are all worth causes. The following adjustments are proposed: (1) Make sure that there are time minutes on all appeals. (2) Spread the presentations over the 4 days of high holidays. (3) Try to schedule them at natural breaks in service and at logical times.

The proposed schedule is attached.

A. Behar: I think there is still much. There is also too many requests for money on Kol Nidre. We should move the Shomrei Tikvah appeal to the 2nd day Rosh Hashanah, and move the USY presentation back to Kol Nidre.

J. Baer: Shomrei Tikvah should stay on Kol Nidre → we need a big audience for it and it is an inspiring time. It's also very enjoyable to hear from USY on Kol Nidre. Can't we keep both on Kol Nidre?

J. Edley: I agree with Arie that there are too many presentations, and I thought that the point was to try and pare them down.

M. Binder: The purpose of having the crop walk on Kol Nidre is so that we can use the stickers to indicate who is participating. It can't be moved.

M. Kasdin: I agree there are too many appeals. We should look to eliminating the Shomrei Tikvah. It is a program that has had its day. We should also eliminate the Federation Appeal -> it's redundant. We all get the super Sunday appeals – it's enough.

A. Gold: The Federation Appeal really works. This past year, we got a lot of new donors (at least 40) and many others added to their pledges.

K. Zimmerman: We should keep it as the committee recommended. All of the appeals are good ones, and we should educate people about the various causes.

N. Jackenthal: We shouldn't be educating people with speeches. We aren't here to write checks → and it just goes on too long.

C. Gittelman: We should be using the opportunity to spread the word.

H. Finkelstein: We are a JCC. We have an obligation to support the Jewish community and all of these causes need our support.

M. Gaynor: We should ask the speakers to incorporate the point that we are not just asking for money now, but for ongoing support.

M. Binder: Everyone seems to be agreeing – that the content is fine, but we need to limit timing.

J. Baer: With regard to the Shomrei Tikvah comment → we should look at revitalizing that program.

D. Greenberg: I am very uncomfortable with any proposal that seeks to legislate future appeals. I don't think it's our place – we have a Ritual Committee that should look at the proposed appeals on an annual basis and schedule them accordingly – to lock into a defined schedule for all time is ridiculous.

J. Edley: I agree with Dan and Harvey.

Based on the comments received, the Task Force will go back and refine the proposal for next meeting.

New Business [All]

None.

Vice-Presidents Reports

See attached.

Administration [A. Behar]

There will be an installation for the cantor on April 14th. Details will be forthcoming.

Ways and Means [J. Marcou]

Please support the scrip program.

Education [H. Schneider]

No Report.

J. Baer: there is some concern about youth programs. E.g., the Hanukah party only had 15 people. We need some help with the youth commission.

Activities [E. Danto]

[Report given by Cantor Rockman in Elliot's absence]

1. January 26th is Shabbat Shira → come and enjoy the music of the Sons of Tikvah band at 8 PM
2. Rick Recht concert will be a lot of fun – great entertainer → bring your kids.
3. We looked into a Passover community Seder → caterer came to us to investigate, but we determined that it would not really be feasible. The economics just don't work.
4. J. Baer: Social Action. We sponsored 6 families this past holiday season. We are sponsoring a food drive to replenish the food bank. Please join us in the social action committee. Please bring a box of mac & cheese to next board meeting.

A. Gold: Presidents & First Ladies is on April 14th. Can we change the installation of the cantor? Yes.

Ritual Committee [M. Binder]

[M. Frumkin: the Ritual Committee has requested a slot to speak at Bord meetings to bring everyone up to date on their activities.]

1. The committee has 18 members; there are 4 subcommittees: High Holidays, physical artifacts, daily minyan and minhagim.
2. There will be a Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday, January 27th. It is a lot of fun and brings out all the senses. Please join us!
3. In February, we will have a Superbowl halftime minyan → starts ten minutes into halftime and guaranteed to have you back in front of your TV by the second half kickoff! For Purim, we will be doing a presentation of the Maltese Hamantasch.
4. In March. Pesach → no community Seder this year, but we'll see about next year.
5. If you are interested in being on the committee, come see Mark Binder.

Financial Report [G. Tinkel]

We now are 447 members. 311 Dues Paying Equivalents, which is almost the same as was reported at the Congregational Meeting. About 8% of members have not paid dues.

Jewish Family Vocational Services has an unemployment program that has been successful → we will start the same kind of thing to help people find jobs. We will also try to be included in job fair in East Brunswick Jewish Center.

Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]

We are about \$10K ahead of budget for dues collection. We are also ahead in High Holiday pledges and Hebrew school fees. Nursery school is incomplete, so it is not as bad as it looks in report.

Most expenses are right on target. Major Exceptions:

- Admin payroll will NOT be ahead → it will be 0 by end of year.
- Same with clergy payroll.
- House and grounds could change at any time.

The mortgage payment amount is set aside for refinancing costs, which we haven't encountered yet. Nursery school expenses are likely to come down when they are fully reported as well.

Cash situation: \$636K in all accounts.

Question [J. Kaminsky]: Does the checking account earn interest? No – it's unusual to keep a lot of money in it, but we just don't get to the bank everyday.

Question [M. Kasdin]: the accounts that are over \$100K – are they insured? Only up to \$100K.

Motion [by M. Kasdin, second by G. Tinkel] to direct the treasurer to limit the amount in each account to the federally insured amount, whatever that might be. Motion approved [18 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain].

Question [M. Kasdin]: Where are we with proposal to audit the accounts? We are awaiting proposals.

Men's Club Report [J. Edley]

There will be a meeting on Sunday → Mark Kasdin will be presenting the expansion plans.

We have received a letter from Men's Club Federation → we will be disaffiliated if we don't pay \$1566 in dues by January 15th.

Jerry Edley will follow up and determine the status.

Both Bill Greenberg and Steve Katz have expressed interest in being involved in leading men's club.

Sisterhood Report [C. Asnis]

- Recently showed "Train of Light" – a movie about the Holocaust.
- Upcoming pottery class on January 27th.
- February 21st → tai chi class.
- Upcoming fundraiser: Purim baskets.
- There will also be Passover wine and flower sales.
- May 2nd. Big fundraiser is fashion show -- > thank you for all who will participate.
- At the next meeting we will be collecting pasta and sauce for needy families.

- Sisterhood Shabbat – January 26th.

50+ Club [M. Gaynor]

The next meeting is January 22nd at 1PM → Tu B'shevat program. Meeting opened to all.

Mercaz [H. Finkelstein]

PLEASE HELP. Sign up for Mercaz. We have had only 34 people sign up from this synagogue. → That's very poor. We need to do much better.

Good and Welfare [Cantor]

- Condolences to the families of Helen Puteska (grandmother of Bonnie Stevens and Toby Ehrlich), Dick Schaap (father of Renee Levin), Sherman Goldsmith (father of Fred Goldsmith) and Harry Winograd (father of Sue Levinson). .
- Mazel Tov to Danielle Katcher, Jullian Shay and Allison Schultz.

Confirmation of Next Meeting

Next meeting is Monday, February 4th, 2002.

Executive Session

Board of Directors Meeting went into Executive Session at 9:52 PM.