

Minutes from board meeting January 2, 2007
Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Danny Greenberg

In attendance: Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Jeff Berger, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Ruth Shindler, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, Mark Sherman, Gary Warner
Rabbi Goldstein, Lisa Mason, Hadas Elami
Guest: Jodi Marcou

Rabbi Goldstein presented a d'var Torah about the last chapter in Genesis.

President's report:

Welcome to Jeff Berger as a new board member.

Thanked Hadas for the great job she did coordinating the Chanukah party.

Hadas then thanked the many people who helped with that event.

Danny mentioned 2 children in our religious school whose grandparents pay for their tuition, their parents are not members. Can the older child have his bar mitzvah at B'nai Tikvah. Danny has appointed a small committee to look into this. Hadas, Rene'e Levin and Mark Jiorle will report back to us in February so that we can make a policy decision.

Rabbi's report:

Rabbi passed around Tzedakah box which is how he would like to begin all board meetings.

Rabbi reminded us that Cantor is away. He thanked Sons of Tikvah for performing at the Chanukah celebration on December 18th prior to the semi-annual congregational meeting. Donuts were supplied by them. Precedent sent that we could do something in the synagogue as well as something outside.

Coming up first Friday night in Feb. will be our Tubshvat celebration. There will be a program that night in celebration of the land of Israel. Poetry, text, song, story, food. The 7 species of Israel. Services are at 6pm that night. Also tasting 4 Israeli wines. The following day is Shabbat Shira, Shabbat of Songs, celebrating the crossing the Sea of Reeds. There will be a festive meal following that. On Sunday we will have our annual world wide wrap.1.

Rabbi reminded us to turn in names for mishaberach, and to let him know if we know of people that the Rabbi should be reaching out to.

Financial Secretary report: Mark Kasdin. 429 members, 276 FDPE, 84 on special arrangements. Still have 14 families who never picked up high holiday tickets and Danny and Mark will get to that soon.

Treasurers report: Marc Dillman. Marc distributed his reports and reviewed the highlights. Scrip sales are not included in the current numbers. Fundraising is behind but is expected to pick up as the year goes on. Nursery school numbers are not up to date.

Old Business: Marc Dillman questioned status of law suit. Danny has nothing to add, lawyer has been away. He will have a report next month.

New Business:

Marc Dillman - report on long term whole building rentals. Charter school is not, as agreed, continuing forward. Marc interviewed those people most closely involved in the day to day workings of the charter school.

1. Our religious school should come first when considering rental
2. Safety of our religious school and nursery school is what we are most concerned about
3. Thoughtful about unknown issues that will come up no matter what we come up with.
4. There should not be anytime when the tenant will occupy the space at the same time that the religious school is in session
5. There should be sufficient time to perform whatever changes are necessary for space utilization from tenant to religious school

Positive issues:

- 1 makes a bunch of money, even with utilities and maintenance
2. We are doing this in a community way, a nonprofit organization. We get good community relations kudos as this is seen within the community.

Negative issues:

1. Limited access to our library
2. Loss of space flexibility for the nursery school.
3. Significant time loss for the religious school director since her office is in not in the same space as the classrooms.
4. The stage cannot be used, it is being used as a classroom
- 5 we have lost storage space
- 6 excessive trash around
7. Maintenance is not being managed or controlled very well. perhaps should be controlled by u./
8. Time needed to manage tenant takes away from other duties
9. Nursery school has limited use of gym
10. Since all the classrooms are being used, they are constantly being changed and reconfigured and cleaned.
11. Wall space in hallways is not being used by us.
12. We do not have any control over the tenant decorated wall space.

Other issues:

- 1 if the tenant is a school we need to be careful of the ages of those students.
2. We need to be thoughtful about racial issues because of the current tenant and there is a lot of us vs. them.
- 3 there has been traffic in the parking lot that needs to be controlled and we need adequate parking spaces.
4. The hallways are not wide enough for the number of students that we have now. They have 160
5. Our food restrictions are an issue for the current tenant,
6. Space is needed for a teacher's lounge, there is not one now.
7. Suggested that the tenant staff should wear picture id badges
8. Would be easier if the tenant had a Jewish identity.
9. There is always the question of whether damage will be repaired at the end of the year and do we have to look at damage during the year until things are fixed.

Motion by Marc Dillman:

Move to allow for the rental of the entire new wing on a long-term basis subject to the recommendations of the committee, specifically, any agreement must ensure that:

- The needs of the religious school take priority over the tenant
- The safety of the nursery and religious school students is adequately cared for
- There should not be any time when the tenant and the religious school are in space at the same time
- There should be sufficient time to perform necessary space change-overs

Seconded by Jeff Cadoff

discussion:

Mark Sherman questioned whether this was our intention the whole time. Danny explained that these are guidelines to follow now. This motion brings up issues that we may not have thought of. Cadoff expressed that this motion formalizes our ideas.

Vote: 14 in favor, no opposed 4 abstain

Motion passes

Gary Bergman: **motion**

Move that the deficit from the Chanukah bowling party be covered from the High Holiday pledges line item.
\$383.48 is needed.

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

Dillman asked why we are using that line item. The pledges have nothing to do with the party.

Dillman suggested that we use money from misc. expense.

amended to:

Up to \$400 from misc. expense line item board of director's segment from budget.

vote: unanimous in favor

Motion passes

Motion

Gary Bergman

Move that the renters insurance requirement for renters of our facilities be extended to include synagogue members.

Seconded by Linda Fellen.

Vote: unanimous in favor

Motion passes

Motion by Jeff Cadoff

Move to allocate up to \$250.00 from the Leon and Bibel fund to pay for an honorary plaque honoring Leon and Neysa Bibel.

Seconded by Mark Jiorle

Hadas explained that the plaque would be part of the board that is at the entrance to the sanctuary in honor of everything they have done.

vote: 17 in favor, 1 abstain

Motion passes.

Motion by Ruth Anne:

Move that honorary membership status be given upon request to three ex-Anshe Emeth of South River members.
seconded by Gary Bergman

3 members of that congregation had checks cut from Highland Park directly to BT. One couple and one single.

We are getting money for about 9 years in advance. Honorary members do not pay dues. The money is the equity that they had in the building.

Amended: membership paid up to ten years based on the money that we are receiving. (Take out the honorary membership wording).

Rabbi pointed out that these people have chosen us and we should reconsider this motion and take out the terms of ten years.

Ruth Anne withdraws amendment, seconded by Jeff Cadoff.

Vote: 17 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain

motion passes

Rabbi: he would like to see a "save Darfur" banner outside on Finnegan's lane. He will fund the cost of the banner from his discretionary account. Could be an issue with the caterer. perhaps put it closer to the lawyers property. We should have a discussion over the next couple of week, Danny will talk to Rabbi. Encouraged everyone to go to President Bush and new UN secretary general to stop the killing in Darfur: savedarfur.org and add your name

Good and welfare:

Condolences to Sandy Sharon on the passing of her mother, Helen Brook,

Matt Schurman on the passing of his father, Alan Schurman

Get Well

Elan Glazier underwent surgery and is home and is doing well

Donna Glazier is back in the hospital.

Danny reminded us that USY service is this Friday night come out and support USY.

Motion to adjourn by

Gary Warner

Seconded by Ed Birch

Administration VP Report

January 2007

Communications

Almost all of the vanity addresses have been reinstated. If you are not sure or to have your name or title address reactivated, you must speak to Gary Bergman at 246-7285 to insure you understand the ramifications of spam reporting.

Religious Activities

Howard Waksman is putting together a syllabus for creating a "learner's minyan". The service will be a prayer experience as well as a learning lesson, possibly centering on 1 or 2 prayers each service. Planned for Jan-Feb.

House & Grounds

The washing machine at the rabbi's residence was in disrepair. We got a very good price w/free delivery etc. from Gary Tilbor at SeeMore Appliances in Metuchen.

A long standing leak in the social hall was traced to a crack in the PVC drain pipe above the ceiling tiles. A temporary wrapping was applied to prevent further damage. Charley Bloom is donating his resources to provide a permanent fix but, his workers determined that the fault is with the roof installation and the roofer was notified.

Vice President for Membership

January Report

Ruth Anne Koenick

The past month has been fairly slow. I attended the monthly family Shabbat dinner and the Chanukah party. With the help of the office staff, many of the non-member names were added to my HaKol mailing list which is now up to 47.

I sent notes to all of the B'nai Mitzvah families in December and condolences to members who had a death in their family as well.

Membership helped underwrite the Chanukah party by paying for some advertising. Membership also helped pay for some advertising in the Jewish press for the summer camp and nursery school. Phyllis and I talked about this as we continue to have it as a goal to increase the number of Jewish children in these programs as an entrance point to joining B'nai Tikvah. I am often contacted by the Jewish press to place ads in certain editions and have found it important to check with other parts of BT in order to not duplicate our efforts.

School & Youth Vice-President Report

January 1, 2006

Nursery School

- The kids have gone on several field trips. Most recently to the State Theater in New Brunswick and a trip to the fire house is planned.
- Israeli Dance, yoga and soccer programs are continuing from last year and gymnastics has been added.

Camp Program

- Camp enrollment will begin in the very near future. Please talk this up, as word of mouth is still our best advertisement.

Religious School

- The Alef naming is coming up at the end of January and the Bet class will have a PACT program on January 7th.

USY

- 9 USY'ers recently attended the International Event in Boston, MA.
- The USY will be conducting the Friday night service this coming Shabbat (January 5th). Please join us!! Those that missed last year's service missed a fun USY service.
- There are currently 44 members in the USY Chapter.
- The remaining calendar is currently being finalized by the chapter.

Kadima

- Kadima Fun Day (A Regional event) will be held at B'nai Tikvah on January 21st. The rain day is January 28th. Volunteers are still being solicited for chaperoning, set-up and breakdown.
- A Regional Dance is scheduled for January 28th.
- The March event will be held at the Glassworks.

College Program

- The Hanukah packages went out.
- Please encourage those you know with college children to contact Marcia Schwartz with the children's school mailing information.

Youth Commission

- The Commission is exploring the implementation of a web-based Youth Calendar that would include all Kadima, USY, Religious School and synagogue sponsored youth activities in one place.
- **Purim Carnival planning has begun. The Youth Commission will be working with the synagogue event staff, Sisterhood and others to make this year's Carnival an event for all ages. Volunteers and/or ideas are always welcome.**

VP of Ways and Means

Allison Nagelberg

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: Please be on the lookout for invitations and other PR for Saturday, March 17, 2007, when we will be honoring Mark and Brenda Sherman for their ongoing contributions to Congregation B'nai Tikvah. This promises to be a fantastic evening, including entertainment by comedian Lenny Marcus, as well as a well-deserved tribute to the Shermans. Bring your friends, and take out an ad to thank the Shermans for their support of our synagogue. Many thanks to Larry Cohen for chairing this special event!

SUPERMARKET SCRIP: I am awaiting an update from Rachel Shaneson. As of the last board meeting, CBT had sold approximately \$65,000 of scrip, which generates revenue of almost \$4,000. Hope to have current numbers for tonight's meeting.

EBAY, INK CARTRIDGES, ETC: Please continue to send items to Bonnie Kudwit for sale on EBAY. Please also continue to drop off used ink cartridges at the office. All of these activities help to generate extra dollars for our congregation.