

B'nai Tikvah Board Meeting

Minutes: January 8, 2001

Meeting called to order at 8:01 p.m. by M. Frumkin.

Attendees:

M. Frumkin, A. Behar, B. Shapiro, K. Riemann, J. Marcou, G. Tinkle, M. Dillman, A. Ross, B. Rockman, K. Zimmerman, J. Baer, S. Berk, G. Bergman, R. Harkov, H. Schneider, M. Kasdin, S. Gordon, J. Kaminsky, H. Finkelstein, J. Scheuer, L. Marx, J. Edley, Cantor Sereed-Lever, Rabbi Eligberg, H. Nitsat-Elami

Non-Board Guests: None

Motion to approve minutes: Jay Scheuer 2nd J. Edley. Minutes approved with amendments (deletion of closed session, L. Marx was present and did provide a sisterhood report) with two abstentions.

D'Var Torah: Rabbi Eligberg

With the secular New Year just passing, we can now look to another "New Year", Tu B'Shevat. For many of us we remember this as a time for purchasing trees for planting in Israel. This year, perhaps more than any other in the recent past, we need to connect ourselves with Israel.

Israel is at a crossroads that doesn't look like it will get better in the near future. What is alarming is the degree to which we are unfazed by this as a community. We should take this Tu B'Shevat as an opportunity to invest ourselves in Israel as we did so many years ago.

Mitch asked what can we, as a synagogue or board, do – what is the call to action? Rabbi noted:

- Make feelings of support known to the Israel government.
 - Mitch asked that the Rabbi draft a letter that could be sent on behalf of the congregation.
- Recommended a letter to the outgoing Clinton administration/incoming Bush administration noting our concern.
 - It was also recommended a letter be drafted and signed by the board.
- Follow an old Tu B'Shevat custom and invest in the land of Israel.

Motion: J. Kaminsky, 2nd L. Marx. *Board takes \$500 of congregational funds to purchase Israel bond.* **MOTION passed.** Funds will be taken from Social Action fund, which fulfills the purpose of this fund.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Expansion Update:

- Architect hired (Cornerstone Architects) are working on renditions. Floor plan will be presented on Wednesday, January 10.
- Jeff Schwartz and Mark Roller are doing follow-up/housekeeping since signed pledges only received for 60% of pledges.
- Mark Dillman has prepared spreadsheet to determine income projection and expenses.
- Preliminary meetings with attorney. Still hope to be on schedule with planning board for February.

Catering Contract:

- Felt that the caterer should participate in expansion effort, in some manner
- Committee looking to board for guidance on how to best move forward: continue to negotiate for additional increments in the later years of the contract or accept the up-front "jump" with smaller increments in the latter years.
- Should not trade back any dates but if necessary request his help for some of our own events

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Website (G. Bergman)

Retail site purchases over the Internet. Two sites, Igive.com and benefitsall.com that provide allocation back to charities. Access websites via benefitsall.com or igive.com and we get monies as if they were allocated directly. The amount sent back varies from 2% to 30%. Best way to do this is via Bnai Tikvah's site, which enables us to sign up.

Hardest thing is first purchase.

Reports:

Financial Secretary (Gary Tinkel)

Computer system is fixed and reports will be up and running.

Treasurer (Marc Dillman)

5 months into year, we are ahead of cash in over cash out as is usual for this time of year. We have \$323,000 cash on hand in variety of accounts. Expansion fund has a balance of \$3,364 positive. We have received \$99,000 in donations and expended \$96,400. Since December 31, we have collected \$61,000 in new donations thus we have received \$161,000 in cash or cash equivalent for the expansion fund. We are getting close to the 1/5 amount in the first full year of the program.

VP REPORTS WERE SENT TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

VP Admin (A. Behar)

- Stained glass making good progress. Hope that will make presentation at next meeting.
- Cemetery committee: received proof of markers; sent to Kutliroff's for approval. Rabbi needs to check the Hebrew text. (Note: markers must include Jewish Community of North Brunswick)
- Installed motion detectors for all lights in school wing. AC/Heat system now has box and programmed to only be on when people are in the room. It should be noted that it does take a couple of hours for the room to warm up.
- Number of changes to the constitution. Propose that the President, VP-Admin and Chair, Constitution committee sign the most recent version of constitution and kept in safe.

Motion (A. Behar, 2nd J. Marcou): *Seek approval to issue a credit card in the name of the Administrator with credit limit up to \$1500.*

- The VP Admin will be responsible for approval of invoices.

VOTE: 4 In Favor; 10 opposed, 6 abstentions. **Motion Defeated.**

Motion (A. Behar, 2nd J. Edley): *Seek approval to enter into 5 year lease agreement for two new copiers for \$280 per month.*

- How many copies does this lease allow for? Cost 0.01 per copy in addition to \$280 per month.
- What is average number of copies per month? Currently spend approximately \$300 per month at same rate of .01 (30,000 copies per month).
- How does this impact budget for this year? What if we don't enter lease? We will not have copy machine. These funds will come from administration. The school will reimburse for their portion and the remainder coming from the budget.
- What is the buy-out after 5 years? Not known.
- Purchase new is \$13,800.
- If we purchase outright, what is cost per copy?
- Is this new or reconditioned? New.

Vote: Motion passed with one opposition. **Motion Carried.**

VP Activities (B. Shapiro)

- Comedy night: Slow ticket sales up until this week. We went from 25 to 90 over the weekend but need 150 to break even.
 - Cancellation now would cost more than moving forward.
- Hockey night: will not be rescheduled. Monies will be refunded.
- Adult Education chair not able to continue. Looking for a new chair.
- Gary Bergman, webmaster, has standardized web site. Membership survey will also be on website. Thanks for all the work done.
- New Year's party was very successful

VP School and Youth (K. Riemann)

- Camp: no changes in projection relative to construction.
- Motion (K. Riemann, 2nd S. Berk) *Postpone camp for 2001 summer due to construction.*
 - Will this impact continuity that has been built up? Yes. Incentives may need be considered when we reopen in Summer 2002.

- Ben Shapiro requested to amend motion that construction must take place. Amendment not accepted.
- Can we move camp to another site? We do not earn enough funds to move to another site and pay rent.
- Letter will be sent to Nursery School parents explaining why camp will not be held this year but returning "bigger and better" for next year.

Motion Carried.

- Kadima calendar will be forthcoming in a couple of weeks once the advisors school schedule is set.

VP Ways and Means (J. Marcou)

- Casino Night: Invitations went out. If anyone would like invitations to mail to friends, let Jodi know.

Sisterhood (L. Marx):

Sisterhood Shabbat is January 20. Next meeting is January 21 (Tiger Shulman).

Men's Club (G. Edley)

Going along well with new members. Next meeting is Sunday, January 14 with Dr. Fred Streit.

Fifty Plus (J. Scheurer)

No report

Chazan's Report

Thursday evening, Jan 25th first monthly healing service (7:45 p.m.)

Administrator's Report

Rabbi's Report

- Torah Lishmah: Invited 8 local Rabbi's to share with us their thoughts on favorite biblical characters. Flyers on program will be going to membership this week.
- Reminder that Sunday 14th at 7 p.m. is Annual Martin Luther King Junior Service.
- Tu B'Shevat Seder will be Wednesday, February 7th beginning at 6 p.m.
- Chai School program yesterday began 6-8 week unit on American Jewish History. A trip to Philadelphia is planned in February to Mikvah Israel.

Cheer and Sorrow:

Refuah Shelayma (Get Well wishes)

Michael Hecht

Sidney Nevins

Deborah Spigner

Hamakom Yenahem

Frank Waltzer (Father - Henry)

Mazel Tov on B'nai Mitzvah:

Frank and Laurie Waltzer on Bar Mitzvah of Evan

Bill/Jeanette Bergelson on birth of granddaughter

Doug Harvey and Carole Gaelick on Bat Mitzvah of Kira Harvey

Steven/Miriam Gordon on Bat Mitzvah of Julie

Adrienne/Andy Ross on Bat Mitzvah of Elyse

Howard/Carol Kalish on naming of granddaughter Rachel Faye

President's Report

- Letter received from United Synagogue Youth regarding Tikun Olam award received at International Convention.

- Strategic Planning Group: Met twice as a group (Janice Baer, Jodi Marcou, Mark Kasdin, Rabbi, Arthur Cederbaum, Larry Cohen, Kerry Olitzky, Mitch Frumkin). Purpose is to look at broken items or “not broken” and break them to determine how to improve all elements of synagogue life. A larger group will be meeting on January 28th at 10 a.m. to further these discussions. Mitch invites the entire board to participate. Kerry Olitzky will facilitate meeting.

Board went into closed session at 10:31 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 11:30. G. Edley 2nd S. Berk. MOTION PASSED

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