

Minutes from congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Director

January 10, 2008

In attendance:

Stu Allen, Jeff Berger, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Cindy Gittleman, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Beth Schurman, Paul Zankel, Linda Fellen, Ed Birch, Rene Juro, Ruth Schindler, Marc Dillman, Mark Sherman, Aaron Rosloff, Danny Greenberg, Arthur Biderman, Jeff Schwartz

Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman

Meeting called to order by President Ruth Anne.

She thanked the board for being flexible and allowing us to change the meeting date.

No corrections or changes to the minutes.

Rabbi Wolkoff gave us a D'var Torah about the reason why we wear Tefillin. We must use the strength of our arms to lead in the right direction.

Allison has had a number of conversations with the lawyer regarding our lawsuit. He called Ruth Ann Koenick and is sending her the settlement agreement, which has been reviewed by Allison. He is waiting for everyone to sign off on the agreement. Then the funds will be disbursed.

We have interviewed a number of candidates; two have come back for second interviews. We have references on one, not on the other yet. A decision will be made by the group. One candidate has not told her employer that she is leaving so we cannot contact that employer. One is a personal reference one was in answer to the ad that we placed.

We need board members to volunteer to be here on Saturday morning to help supervise the maintenance staff. There is no consistency with that staff and they do not know what to do. Beth Schurman has been dealing with this. Beth is working with the owner to make this successful.

Jeff Schwartz will be working on the Rabbi's installation with the Rollers, Kasdins, Ross', Schwartz and Larry and Dot Cohen. The date has not been finalized, sometime in March or April.

Ruth Anne thanked everyone who has stepped up and helped, especially Hadas who is still helping with the financial management.

**Rabbi's report:** The Rabbi passed around his report. Ritual has added a prayer for the Military during Shabbat morning services. There is an incident taking place in the schools, not anti semetism per say, and the Rabbi and the Cantor are working on the issue with the clergy association.

Re: the desecration of the cemetery in New Brunswick – the 4 teens were caught, the official report was that it was not hate crime.

**Cantor's report** – next week lunch and sing will be our annual Shabbat Shira event, rsvp's are requested, this event is free.

Cantor has spoken to a number of people regarding havdalah. He would like to take advantage of our facility. He gets a nice turnout when this service is held at his house, around 30 people. We do not get a

good turnout when the service is held at our building. This week, as an experiment, starting at 3:30 there will be an organized play period which will last about 45 minutes. The Rabbi will then teach after about 45 minutes. Services start at 4:45, people can stay and play or will be asked to join if we need the minyan. Cantor has been getting in touch with various groups for attendance and sponsors.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah session has been requested. Cantor sees this as an opportunity to brush up on synagogue skills; otherwise we will not attract men.

We are forming a youth choir. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Federation is sponsoring a program to celebrate Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This event will be for free at the State Theater.

We need to take advantage of Federation grant for first time attendees at Jewish sleep away camp. We need to send this information to everyone. Rabbi Wolkoff will write an article about why sending your child to Jewish sleep away camp is important

**Financial Secretary:** Mark Kasdin – 399 members, 269 FDPE. Still waiting to hear from the 10 members that he has reached out to. Considering that our country is entering a recession, this affects our membership.

**Treasurer's report** – Marc Dillman – Marc distributed his report and reviewed the highlights. We are 5 months into our fiscal year. Dues are less than what we had anticipated. Collection of dues is down; this could be due to not having an administrator on hand. Catering is up. We are receiving an extra \$1,000.00 from the caterer each month because he is doing catering outside our facility using our building. We are behind in fundraising. Nursery school income is up. Room rent negative is due to the fact that the new wing is not being rented out as much as we budgeted for. House and grounds is down, but we have not gotten any snow yet and we could go through that money quickly.

Jeff has \$48,000 pledged for the parking lot. \$36,000 has been collected so far.

Questions on VP reports:

What are we doing instead of the big event, which we are no longer doing? We do not have the time to make the big fundraiser a success and will put that off until the fall. There will be a fundraising event tied in to the Rabbi's installation. No dates have been set.

Jeff Schwartz – programming report. Craft fair was a wonderful event; we did turn a profit of \$1,300.00. The Chanukah party was not under programming, but it was well attended and was a wonderful event. Sisterhood had the best sales day that they had all year. Youth also raised money. The weather was very bad, there was other competition going on. Not all the vendors were happy but many were.

Jack Mailman's memorial service – it has been hard to pin the family down. The date is January 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 and will end at about 2pm. There will be speakers, Cantor will speak, some students that Jack taught how to blow shofar will be there. A letter will be going out at the beginning of the week, the family wants to approve the letter which will go out at the beginning of the month. Coffee and Danish will be served before the event starts. The family will be in the lobby to greet attendees. Followed by a light lunch. Time may need to be changed to accommodate religious school pick up, to 11:30pm.

**Question to auxiliary report:**

Men's club had a regional meeting last night. This Sunday is their monthly meeting, cardiologist. World Wide wrap is February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sisterhood: P assover Poker event is this Saturday night, still can RSVP, although walk-ins are accepted it is much easier if they know who is coming ahead of time.

**Old Business:** Mark Sherman mentioned the family mission that is taking place this summer, they have about 26 people so far and will be opening this up to other communities, they would like to have about 40 people going.

Marketing committee: Cindy Gittleman – Stu Allen, Gary Bergman, Ruth Shindler, Gary Warner, Dave Spivak, Candace Botnick, Marla Sukor, Alan Brown and Danny Greenberg. Cindy is facilitating this committee. Cindy thanked Gary Bergman for our website, which was originally set up to serve our community. It actually serves as the portal to the outside world. The committee is working on the website and a lot is happening. Survey will be sent out. Dave Spivak did an informal survey. Needs assessment will be done for each committee, things that are missing, etc.

The committee is looking to improve the navigation and the color. They are looking for ways to perhaps make payment s right on line instead of sending payments in, ecommerce. This will help improve internally as well as externally.

How is the committee working with the need to advertising? Cindy responded that advertising is more program based for now. Need to look inside before we start looking outside. T he committee is working on exit surveys as well as other surveys. Need to find out where members look when they need information.

Marc Dillman

**Motion:**

That the \$75,000.00 received as a result of the litigation be applied to the capital improvement fund.

Seconded by: Mark Sherman

All in favor of calling the question

Vote on motion: in favor: 19 opposed: 0 abstain :0

**Motion passes**

Aaron Rosloff: update on festival to be held on September 14, 2008. It will be held at Woodlot park 11am to 6pm. Police protection will be on hand. We have begun negotiations with entertainers. Aaron spoke to caterer to provide Kosher food.

**Motion** by Aaron Rosloff:

That Classical Caterers be permitted to attend Congregation B'nai Tikvah Jewish Festival on September 14, 2008, at Woodlot Park, South Brunswick, NJ and at that location and only on that day be permitted to prepare and vend Kosher foods to the attending public. Details of financial agreements and terms to be negotiated between the Festival committee and Classical Caterers.

Seconded by Mark Sherman

Discussion followed – is there a rain date. No. Vendors and entertainers need to be paid no matter what. We are going to look in to rain insurance.

Vote on motion: in favor: 19, opposed 0 , abstain: 0

**Motion passes**

New Business: Beth Schurman – room rental and insurance. Danny Greenberg will get together with Keith Zimmerman to discuss this.

State is doing air quality testing for nursery schools. We will have to get our air testing. Keyboard Kids down the room has failed. They are looking for space until they get their issue resolved. They have met with Phyllis Denenberg. They will need it for about a month. The State is coming out tomorrow to give us temporary capacity increase to 95. Keyboard Kids has added us to their insurance policy so that we are covered.

**Motion:**

Authorize Mark Jiorle to craft a deal with Keyboard Kids Nursery School without having to come back to the board.

Seconded by Mark Sherman

They are going to comply with our rules regarding food, hours, etc.

Recommendation to be sure to cover any damage. Look at the Charter School contract to make sure that everything is covered.

Aaron Rosloff – motion to call the motion

Vote to call the question – 18 in favor 1 opposed

Vote on motion:

In favor 18, 0 oppose, 1 abstain

**Motion passes.**

Aaron Rosloff – cemetery vandalism is covered under homeowners insurance if people are alive. Aaron suggests that we look into what coverage we have in anticipation of this happening to us

Good and Welfare:

Mazel to: Brooke Altman on her Bat Mizvah on December 1, 2007

Miriam and Daniel Benovitz on their marriage this past Sunday

Refuah Shlemah:

Marna Pal, Gwen Simon, Alan Weg, Rachel Shaneson, and Neal Gittleman

Motion to adjourn: Mark Sherman

Seconded by: Mark Jiorle