

Congregation B'nai Tikvah – Board of Directors Meeting Feb. 4, 2013

Board members attending: Gary Bergman, Mark Kasdin, Marcie Kfare, Phil Welsher, Jeff Cadoff, Gary Wesalo, Bill Greenberg, Stuart Allen, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Fellen, Ben Gottesman, David Cukor, Craig Cohen, Lauren Cohen, Jeff Schwartz, Michael Weiss, Arthur Cederbaum, Rob Blackin, Andy Ross, Danny Greenberg

Also attending: Rabbi Wolkoff, Lynne Weiss-Marshall, Kim Riemann, Arielle Weg Aaron Rosloff

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Bergman at 8:02 p.m.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved with one change to the spelling of name.

Bergman thanked Mark Kasdin for the success of the art auction, noting as well the praise of the event's committee for his leadership.

Kim Reimann made a presentation about social media and its utility for the congregation. She offered instruction on how individuals can participate in order to maximize the impact for the congregation. She discussed practical strategies for how to use social networks to spread the word on events, fund-raising and other opportunities.

Kasdin, in the financial secretary's report, said there are 373 member families at present. The amount past due from all sources is \$116,000, of which \$90,000 was due by February.

Gary Wesalo, in the treasurer's report, said January dues collections ran way under budget. Halfway through the year, the dues line shows a \$35,000 deficit from the budgeted amount for the year. Income from the caterer and nursery are good. Income from the religious school is not so good. On the cost side, future budgets will have to include the cost of bank charges from credit card billing. That costs wasn't in the current budget. He said utilities are currently running under budget but only because of a quirk in billing.

There was some discussion about the impact of the credit card fees and how to address them. No action was taken. There was also discussion about accounting for early payment of nursery school registration fees.

For administration, David Cukor said there are some discussions regarding the cantor's contract and whether the parsonage might factor into the package. Cukor also submitted a written report, which is appended below.

For ways and means, Jeff Cadoff complimented Kasdin's vision and leadership for the art auction. Cadoff said early figures indicated approximately \$3,700 in proceeds from the event.

Kasdin said the auction's success suggests the time might be right to investigate a big fund-raising event

For USY, Ariel Weig discussed the many activities recent and pending. There was Wrap Night where they ate wraps, wrapped tefillin, and listened to rap music. On the horizon are regional mid-winter conventions, a Purim planning pizza event and USY taking over Shabbat on 15 March.

Ruth Anne Koenick gave an update on the Mitzvah 613 project to bring a new Torah scroll to the congregation. A big event is planned for 5 May when the finished scroll arrives at the synagogue for the first time. In addition to the new scroll, the project contemplates repairs to other scrolls as well as improvements to the ark and sanctuary.

Arthur Cederbaum updated the board on the progress toward a new cemetery policy. Cederbaum said of the original 1,200 plots acquired by the congregations, 300 have been used, another 300 are currently reserved, leaving more than 500 available. He said that should be more than enough for our needs for many years.

Cederbaum presented a set of cemetery policy guidelines to govern how the plots are allocated. Those addressed a variety of situations that might arise.

Jeff Schwartz moved to approve the policy (Cadoff seconds)

A lengthy discussion ensued about the details of the guidelines. Several members pointed to language that might be insufficient, ambiguous or difficult to execute. Suggestions were made for ways to augment or improve the guidelines..

Schwartz withdrew the motion pending revisions.

A closed session was called.

Move to adjourn by Allen (Gottesman seconds)

Administration – David Cukor

The roof above the nursery school wing has been completely replaced

Evan's second shed was painted and shrubs to be planted in front of them in spring.

Most of the exterior lighting issues were fixed.

The heating unit in the offices and vestibule was fixed. It was the inducer motor which was not under warranty but since Trane took so long to come out they gave us the new motor and a hundred dollars towards the labor.

The thermostat in the Kiddush room was replaced so heat works on both sides of the room.

The heating unit was fixed in the kitchen at no cost to us and we are trying to get an extended warranty due to the negligence of the company that made and installed it so if it malfunctions again we don't have to pay for it.

The school wing water heater for the Temple had work done and parts replaced

The kitchen and the front bathrooms water heater is being repaired. This is the one that we put a band aid on last year. Once again trying to keep it going for as long as possible...about \$7,000 to replace.

Decor committee is working to put together a vision and bids for the sanctuary redo. Will be my focus at the March board meeting.

Cemetery committee has put together their recommendations and we will vote to approve at this meeting.

Ritual committee doing a great job as always. The Tu Beshvat Sedar was a great success. We could use some more people on this committee if you know anyone interested please contact me.

I will discuss the parsonage in a closed session this evening.

Thank you and as always any questions or thoughts feel free to contact me.

David