

Minutes from Board of Director's Meeting

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

February 4, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Ruth Anne Koenick at 8:02 pm.

In attendance:

Stu Allen, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Larry Cohen, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Mark Jiorle, Rene Juro, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Mark Sherman, Paul Zankel, Gary Warner, Gary Bergman, Marc Dillman, Beth Schurman, Arthur Biderman, Linda Fellen, Ruth Schindler, Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman

Guests: Marci Oslick, Janice Hoffman

Corrected Marla Cukor name spelling in January minutes

D'var Torah by Rabbi Wolkoff regarding last week's parasha.

**President's report:** Ruth Anne passed around a copy of bulleted points from the President's list serve. These are things that are going on around the country. If someone is interested in any one of these items, let RAK know and she will follow up, this can be discussed at an upcoming board meeting.

Update on litigation. The lawyer is waiting for one last signature . Hoping to close this out in a week

Committee to hire a new administrative director has offered the job to a candidate. Lynne Weiss-Marshall. She has extensive experience as an administrator, we have checked her references. She was our top choice. Hoping that she will begin the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>. Contract will be put together.

**Rabbi's report** – the Rabbi passed around a copy of his report and went over the highlights.

Thanked Jeff Schwartz for coordinating the memorial service for Jack Mailman. Thanked the Millingers for hosting a parlor meeting at their house regarding interfaith marriage. This meeting did not attract any new members. The topic was how parents handle the situation when one of their children marries someone not Jewish.

Allison Nagelberg elaborated about the Barnes and Noble event last month. There were over 50 in attendance. Some members, some not. We cannot hand out literature, but it is an opportunity for us to get our name out in the general public.

**Financial Secretary:** Mark Kasdin not present. He did give numbers to Ruth Anne – 399 members, 267 FDPE.

**Treasurer's report** – Marc Dillman. Marc passed around a copy of his report and reviewed the highlights. We are halfway through our fiscal year. We are close to expected income. Dues are

significantly under what we anticipated at this time. Research has shown that in July of our last fiscal year, we had a bump of our dues, which is unusual and was usually anticipated in August. Hebrew school income is under budget but there is still \$14,000.00 due from families and if we collected that all then we will have a surplus. High Holiday pledges, we are slightly over. By the end of the year, we should end up approximately \$3000.00 over what we budgeted for. Nursery school income is up; there are more students and more programs. Room rental is down. The money that we have received so far is probably all that we can expect for the rest of the year and may be a negative by the end of the year.

Expenses – admin payroll has money due for maintenance fees. We have not spent money on an administrative director, \$14,000.00 not spent. We have not used a bookkeeper which would have cost us \$5000.00. There could be a surplus of \$14,000.00.

There is a surplus in house and grounds but that can be used up at any time.

Overall we have a positive cash flow of \$64,000.00.

Question regarding the new administrator - is she coming in at the package that we have for her? : She is not coming in at more than we have budgeted for.

United synagogue dues represent 6/10<sup>th</sup> of what is budgeted for.

Question regarding whether the new administrator - will she handle bookkeeping as well? Ruth Anne answered that we do not know that yet, we have budgeted for a bookkeeper, but the new administrator has strength in this area.

Question as to how often we audit and when the last one was. Marc Dillman answered that it was in 2004 and it was not a good audit. We cannot afford to do one at this time. When we decide to do another audit this needs to be discussed. We have a CPA prepare a formal financial statement every year.

Marc Dillman looked at an aging receivables report. We have not received all of our pledges. There is over \$63,000.00 due in expansion fund pledges. \$19,700 is past due. The rest is not yet due. Marc is concerned that of the amount that is not due yet, how much will not be paid. 2009/2010 should be when all of the money is collected.

Question to VP reports: none.

Jeff Schwartz - **Programming** –Rabbis installation will be Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. There will be email going out and an invitation going out. Ceremony, service, ma'ariv and reception by Classical Caterers. Purim – there will be an open mike night following Purim. Holocaust program and Israel 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Larry Cohen - **Ways and Means** – We received 2 paintings from Leon Bibels estate. His daughter donated two pieces that she wanted us to sell for our profit. It is shown on our website. There will be an article in the Jersey Jewish News. Larry highlighted the main points of his report. Any ideas for fundraising are

welcome. We will not be having our big fundraiser this year and need to generate funds some other way.

Auxiliary reports – Bobbi reminded everyone about the Sisterhood upcoming Shabbat/event honoring of the memory of Suse Rosenstock taking place at the end of the month. She encouraged everyone to attend and to rsvp.

Marci Oslick – ritual chair – Marci spoke about the fact that there has been less board representation at services. This is a great way to help us attract new members and to make guests feel welcome. When people are shul shopping they will come to services to check us out. There are several members of the ritual committee who attend. Marci is looking for people to be there to greet and welcome people specifically on Friday night. If anyone would like to do that, just let Marci know a few weeks ahead of time. Marci would like to contact board members over the next few weeks for volunteers.

Marci reminded people to try to get to meetings early to be able to attend minyan.

Rabbi mentioned that there were two guests visiting this past weekend and they left before the Rabbi had a chance to introduce himself. If anyone knows who that is, please let him know.

Gary Bergman reminded us about the Shabbat luncheon on February 23<sup>rd</sup> honoring a few people who have consistently been minyan leaders. Cindy reminded us that there are many people who we can honor and we should keep that in mind.

Gary Warner – spoke about a meeting that he attended for each religious school class. There were some people who were in attendance who are members who do not know other families. There was a discussion about a class mitzvah project, getting kids to attend Kadima. This is a way for families to get to know each other and to encourage them to participate in more programs at the synagogue.

Danny Greenberg –report on our September event - we are moving along well, up to almost \$15,000.00 worth of donations, looking for \$25,000.00. Looking for musical groups. Letter going out to congregation and to businesses. Committee meeting this Sunday night. Anyone interested should reach out to Danny Greenberg or Aaron Rosloff.

**Motion** by Gary Bergman

To apply for a synagogue PayPal account linked to our petty cash bank account at Magyar.

Seconded by Gary Warner.

Explanation – people are looking to be able to pay for items at B’nai Tikvah using a credit card right online instead of printing out a form and sending it in. It does not cost us anything to create account, there is a 3% transaction fee. It can be used anything from the gift shop to making donations. Each committee would be responsible for how much they want to charge.

Marc Dillman – can't use the petty cash account, it's not an auditable account. A new account would need to be set up. Gary Warner wants to make sure that there is a fee associated with the transaction. Question as to whether PayPal allows this. Gary Bergman explained that PayPal does not monitor that.

Paul Zankel feels that we should offer this as a convenience and should not add a surcharge. Also – who is monitoring the account as far as the funds. Can money go out as well, and yes it can.

**Motion** to table the motion to work out the details

17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstains.

**Motion is tabled.**

Cantor Rockman – first rehearsal for children's choir, singing at Federation event at State Theater. 10:30am rehearsal this Sunday. Below dalet or hei class, Cantor will make the determination.

Good and Welfare

3 brit milah – Danto, Kanereck and Cohen.

B'nai Mitzvah – Sam Kfar and Even Gottesman

Refuah shlema – Larry Cohen and Steven Millinger

Condolences to the Pal family and The Gerbman family.

Ruth Anne asked the Executive Committee and Marc Dillman to stay for a few extra minutes after the meeting.

Motion to adjourn:

Gary Warner

Seconded by Linda Fellen