

**Minutes from Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Board of Director's Meeting
March 1, 2005**

Meeting was called to order at 8pm by president Arie Behar.

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Bobbi Binder, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Dan Greenberg, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel
Rabbi Eligberg

D'var Torah by Rabbi Eligberg.

Good and Welfare:

Yasher Koach to the volunteers for the Raise Our Voices III Concert:

Cantor Rockman, Cindy Gittleman, Bobbi Binder, Ruth Anne Koenick, Tammy Zimmerman, Jodi Marcou, Hadas Elami, Sons of Tikvah and a host of other volunteers

R'fuah Sh'layma:

Gary Bergman, Fran Schneider, Rob Robison

Hamakom Y'nachen:

Ed Cardunder on the death of his father; Linda Jacob on the death of her brother; Elainna Koppel on the death of her husband, Ross; Ruth Reisberg on the death of her husband, Philip

Mazel Tov:

Stacey and Jeff Cadoff on the birth of their daughter; Aaron Gittleman for getting the gold in his glass of luge; The Safeer family on the Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca; The Brooks family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Adam; The Rekant family on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Julie; The Sokol Family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ithan. Good luck to Ilana Katronetsky who is running for USY Regional Board.

Approval of January's minutes.

Motion to approve minutes by Harvey, seconded by Mitch.

Vote: In favor: 12, against: 0, abstain: 4

Motion passes.

President's Report: Arie, Group of kids leaving for Israel at the end of March to be guests in Ramla, they will be there for 10 days. We will then be hosting Israeli students here at the end of April. They will be starting in Canada and then coming to us.

New Business:

Motion by Danny Greenberg.

The Décor Committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing all proposed changes to the inside and outside environment of the synagogue. In the case of strictly decorative changes (e.g. paint, wallpaper, non-permanent furniture, etc.) the committee shall not be required to have the approval of the Board except for approval of the funds necessary to affect the change. In the case of permanent or semi-permanent decorative changes (e.g. memorial boards, donor boards,

lighting fixtures, etc.) the committee shall make recommendations to the Board, and the Board shall authorize changes, as it deems appropriate. In the case of structural changes, the committee shall make recommendations to the Board, and the Board shall also enlist the opinions of other experts, with the Board having final authority. In all situations that affect the décor of the sanctuary and Bet Midrash, the committee is required to consult with the Rabbi, in a manner that is consistent with his contract.

Seconded by: Harold Schneider

Discussion: Decor committee is not a standing committee as defined in our constitution. The purpose of the motion is to set some parameters.

Dillman: Questioning why house and grounds is not mentioned in the motion, using the tiling outside as an example.

Harvey questioned the fact that there is nothing in the motion about spending money, feels that the motion allows them to spend money without getting approval (added with approval by Greenberg).

Motion called.

Vote: for 5, against: 6, abstain: 4

Motion defeated.

Motion by Mitch Frumkin.

That the bylaws be revised to reflect the following change to the Feedback Committee charter, Feedback Committee – This committee shall facilitate communications between members of the congregation and the Synagogue staff including the Clergy Rabbi and ~~between members of the Congregation and the Cantor~~ and shall report semi-annually to the executive committee. The committee shall consist of four to six members appointed annually by the President.

Seconded by: Mark Sherman

Vote: for 15, against, 0, abstain 0.

Motion will be brought to the congregational meeting in June.

Mitch: Need to talk about what we are going to do to make sure that the new building is used. Need to make sure we have someone in charge of activities, etc. Can't just continue on the way that we are going. Mitch wants to know what we are doing to make sure this gets done. Right now, nothing. Budget process is starting in a week. Mitch wants to make sure that the budget committee incorporates money to hire someone to be in. VP admin. Needs to include that in the budget for the coming year.

We need to have a plan as to how we are going to use the new building, can't continue on the way that we are going for too long.

Motion by Mitch: The board needs to tell the Budget Committee and vp administration that as one of our top priorities for coming year to hire position for programming.

Seconded by Mark Sherman.

Vote: 9 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain.

Dillman suggested that all past minutes be brought to board meetings.

Cindy Gittleman suggested that we have our opening event in September, including all families, when people are back from summer vacation and kids are starting Hebrew school.

Motion by Danny:

Motion:

The Decor Committee shall be involved in reviewing all proposed changes to the inside and outside decorative environment of the synagogue. In the case of strictly decorative changes (e.g. paint, wallpaper, non-permanent furniture, etc.), the committee shall not be required to have the approval of the Board to make changes, except for approval of the funds necessary to effect the change. In the case of permanent or semi-permanent decorative changes, (e.g. memorial boards, donor boards, lighting fixtures, etc), the committee shall make recommendations to the Board, and the Board shall authorize changes as it deems appropriate. In the case of decorative elements of structural changes, the committee shall work with the House & Grounds Committee and other appropriate committees, and make recommendations to the Board. The Board shall also enlist the opinions of other experts, with the Board having final authority. In all situations that affect the décor of the sanctuary and the Beit Midrash, the committee is required to consult with the Rabbi, in a manner that is consistent with his contract.

Seconded by Janice Baer.

Vote: in favor 13, against 1, abstain 0

Motion passes

Old Business: Ruth Anne spoke to decor committee and the tallis rack was moved in front of the old plaques for the time being. This is a temporary move.

Reports:

Financial Secretary. We have 443 members. 292 full dues paying equivalent members. This number is down. More people need special arrangements. He is still working with 40 members who are more than a quarter behind in dues. Some families are extending their expansion pledges. Mark is concerned that the plaques should not go up until the pledge is paid in full.

Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman handed out his report. Highlights were discussed. Reminded everyone that budget numbers are due, budget committee will be meeting on March 13th.

Dinner dance report: Gary Warner. We have 190 people attending the event. A few people have earned free attendance at the event by selling over 750 worth of ads. Ad journal revenue \$24,000. Committee deserves a lot of kudos. Deadline for ads is March 2nd. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Kasdin would like to see some portable lights in the parking lot, but this is probably not necessary.

There will be a gift presentation to each past president by Larry Cohen. Rabbi is speaking. That should take 15-20 minutes. Gary will make a few opening remarks. Of those attending, do we how many are members? Gary does not have that number available right now. Sherman feels that it is a large percentage, probably 70 percent. This event will fund the September event. \$3000 will probably be allocated.

Janice would like to see a rejuvenation of the expansion campaign to contact the newer members. Arie feels that this is a professional job. Janice thinks that people should be

asked to extend their initial pledge and that this wasn't done. Arie will check with Jeff again.

Dillman would like a room usage report of the new wing and associated areas.

Janice: The storage room will not be used as a library. The present youth lounge will now be just a bet midrash. The youth lounge will be in the old wing, in the back. Arie would like a report brought back to the board so that they understand how the rooms are going to be used.

Mitch: The huge doors for the multipurpose room are in as well as many other items. Heat is on in about 50% of the building. Doors are in with hardware. Electrical is almost done. Floors will be done within the next two weeks, except for the multipurpose room.

Kasdin: Asked about nominating committee. They have met 3 times. There has been a lot of discussion about executive committee. They will be meeting again this week.

Auxiliary reports:

Sisterhood report. Ruth Anne thanked Janice for helping Sisterhood find storage space.

Reminded everyone to order Purim boxes or become a golden grogger member.

Deadline is now. We will be doing a fashion show because we cannot hold the mah jong tournament that we wanted because the new wing isn't ready.

Motion to adjourn to Mark Sherman. Seconded by Gary Warner.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm

The board then went into closed session

REPORTS

VP Administration Report

March 1st, 2005

House & Grounds

- Mazel Tov to our illustrious Chairman of House & Grounds, Jeff Cadoff, and his wife Stacey, on the birth on February 28th of a beautiful baby girl, Hannah Ruth!
- We are aware of the poor condition of the parking lot (again), particularly in the middle section. We have secured several quotes for both repair (involving digging out the affected sections) and total repaving. All if these options have proved too costly. We are arranging for simple filling of the holes, which will have to wait until spring weather appears.
- Construction of the Cantor's new office (which is being carved out of the old youth lounge/library) is almost complete. We expect that it will be done in the next week or two.
- Repairs of the tiled entrance are also dependant on the weather and will hopefully begin by April 1.

Budget

- Our veteran budget wizards (Marty Abschutz & Marc Dillman) are gearing up to begin the process. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13th. COOPERATION OF ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VP's, AND EVERYONE HOLDING LINE ITEM AUTHORITY IS ESSENTIAL. Please start thinking about your budgets NOW, and start getting ready to submit a clear, defensible request.

Décor

- The caterer has completed draping the ceiling of the social hall.

Religious Activities

- The campaign to purchase the new Sim Shalom siddurim is ongoing. The cost is \$30 to dedicate a new siddur and \$21 to move a dedication from an old siddur to a new one. We will continue to use the existing siddurim in the religious school as well as in junior congregation and also for our daily minyan.

Personnel

- We are still completing the job description for the part-time bookkeeper position. We now expect to have the position filled by April 1.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

March 1, 2005

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: Marc Binder is doing a job leading the charge on selling the scrip. It is not a job to be done by one person. We either need support from other congregant or we need to evaluate the program existence. Marc has been receiving some help but never enough. We have sold over \$111,000 in supermarket scrip and made \$2300. Please volunteer!!!!!!

The Event: The committees for the events are off and running. We will be honoring all past presidents. The cost for the dinner dance will be \$118.00 a couple or \$60.00 an individual. The sale of \$750.00 of ads will get you 2 free tickets. We have sold over

\$23,000 worth of ads so far and have 187 people attending. The Community unity part of this event, which will be targeted to whole congregation does not have a date yet. We are waiting for the completion of the new building. Please come and talk to either Gary Warner or myself on helping with the events.

Printer Cartridges: We are collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We have sent in a box and are sitting on several new boxes to be sent out. CBT will receive \$2.00 per cartridge. We have received several hundred dollars so please keep on bringing in the cartridges.

Car Donation: Do to the change in the tax laws car donation are no longer as advantages to the donor. We will still take the donation if requested but I am sure this will no longer be as profitable for the synagogue.

E-Bay: We are exploring ways for us to collect goods and distribute them on e-bay. We would love a volunteer but currently we are looking at people who will be taking a percentage of the sales. We are hoping this will replace some of the income from the car donations. Thank you Hadas for a great idea.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT MARCH 2005

DUES STRUCTURE:

A revised membership dues structure was accepted by the Board in Feb. In the new structure, a new category of Chai Member was established. This category is for members who have shown their commitment to our synagogue with 18 years or more consecutive membership. The distinction of this membership is still in the process of being defined.

2. TEE SHIRTS:

B'nai Tikvah wear was well received this year and will continue to be sold. Come the Spring we will begin to sell again on Sundays, but tee shirts can always be requested for purchase on the website.

3. PROSPECT LIST:

Membership keeps and active up-to-date list of prospective members who have shown an interest in B'nai Tikvah. For a copy of this list to invite to a synagogue event, please contact Cindy Gittleman.

4. HANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS: Membership is thinking about how to say "Thank You" to many of our members who help in all different ways to keep B'nai Tikvah full with activity and community spirit. Please put in your two cents if you have an idea (with a small budget)

THANK YOU,

CINDY GITTLEMAN

Men's Club Report March 2005

For the second consecutive year, the Men's Club is sponsoring a softball team in the Greater Middlesex Jewish Federation League. Mark Kirsch is once again leading the team and has already had notices in the Hakol announcing the team and looking for players.

Final plans are being made for the "Yellow Candle" Program. The candles will be mailed out to the Congregation at the end of April.

One final word on last month's World Wide Wrap. Thanks to Ed Birch; the web site of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs included a report and pictures of B'Nai Tikvah's participation.

. Mitch Frumkin
Past President
Monthly Report February 2005
Date of Report: February 25, 2005

Construction:

In order to give a better idea of how the construction has been proceeding I have prepared the following list of the primary contractors and their percentage complete along with a commentary regarding the project schedule and any anticipated extras. Also presented is a list of work still not under contract.

Current Status of budgeted items:

1. Masonry	99%	
2. HVAC	95%	
3. Electrical	90%	
4. Plumbing	85%	
5. Windows and Exterior Doors	100%	
6. Fire Protection System	95%	
7. EIFS (stucco exterior)	90%	
8. Steel studs and drywall	95%	
9. Miscellaneous iron work	95%	
10. Ceilings	75%	All ceilings in except MPR
11. Bathroom partitions	0%	ready to install
12. Flooring (except MP room)	0%	Starting week of 3/1
13. MP room flooring	0%	ready to install
14. Painting	90%	
15. MP Room door	95%	installed and ready for electrical
16. Classroom accordion door	100%	installed
17. Barrier free lift	0%	ready to install
18. Gas line	100%	complete
19. Basketball hoops	100%	

The heat is on for approximately 75% of the building. The MP Room dividing door has been installed along with the accordion door which separates two of the classrooms. The vinyl flooring will begin going in March 1. The wood base for the stage floor has been installed with the stage floor being installed in the next week or so. The only open contracts are for the vanities in the bathrooms as well as the ceramic tile in the bathrooms. In the case of the ceramic tiles, although they are included in the original budget, the pricing we have been receiving is in excess of the amount budgeted. In regards to the vanities, they are not included in the original budget prepared by the contractor and are minor in nature.

In response to the Attorneys letter to the Contractor, he has contacted us about setting up a meeting to talk about our claim.

Feedback Committee

A motion will be made to recommend at the next Congregational Meeting that the Bylaws be revised to reflect the following change to the Feedback Committee charter, "**Feedback Committee** - This committee shall facilitate communications between members of the Congregation and the Synagogue Staff including the Clergy Rabbi and ~~between members of the Congregation and the Cantor~~ and shall report semi-annually to the Executive Committee. The committee shall consist of four to six members appointed annually by the President. "

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has met three times. Our first objective was to develop procedures for moving forward which we have done. The second was to interview presidential candidates which we have also done. The third was to begin evaluating the Executive Committee positions which we are in the process of doing. Our next meeting will take place on Monday March 7. Anyone with suggestions of people to be considered for Board positions, should e mail this to me.

School & Youth Vice-President Report **March 1, 2005**

Religious School

On Friday, March 4, the Gimel class will have their Shabbat service. On Sunday, March 13th, the Dalet Class will have their C.A.F.E. program, *Yad Workshop*, with guest artist Inbar Bibring. The Alef Class C.A.F.E. program, *Siddur Covers*, will be held on Sunday, March 13, also with guest artist Inbar Bibring. The same guest artist will conduct the Gimel Class C.A.F.E. program, *Hamsa Workshop*, on Sunday, March 20.

The Passover Bartons Candy Sale will end March 6. The proceeds go to extra curricular and enrichment programs for the children.

Kadima

Our current membership is 57 members. Last year we finished at 50. The 8th Grade Shabbaton will be held March 4-6. Our chapter will have Chinese Food and Game Show Night on March 10th. Kadima will hold a Purim event with USY on March 17th. The Regional Kadima Dance will be held in Wayne on April 2nd. The rescheduled Kadima Fun Day will be in Brick on April 10th.

USY

We have 55 members in USY, up 6 from last year. Spring convention applications are available at the synagogue, on the web and have been mailed. They must be returned to our USY advisor by March 10th. They may NOT be mailed to the regional office. Our USY chapter is updating their constitution. The Youth Commission will have final say on the document.