

Congregation B'nai Tikvah – Board of Directors Meeting - March 4, 2013

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

Also attending: Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, Aaron Rosloff, Arielle Weg, Steve Katz

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Bergman at 8:06 p.m.

The minutes of the February were approved as submitted.

Rabbi Wolkoff started things off with a discussion of this week's Torah reading, which combines two parashat. The first opens with "bringing the congregation together." The next begins with "the laws/principles of the community." The rabbi noted the significance of the sequence, asking what if the order were reversed? What if the order had been law then community? The rabbi said Jewish communities are meant to be different. The order of the reading indicates we put the people – with all their differences – first. Then we ask them to turn to the set of laws, grapple with them and bring them to life in their communities.

In the president's report, Bergman said last week's beach party honoring three couples who have made significant contributions to the congregation was incredible. He noted the respect and love expressed at the event. He also shared the comments of others who have noticed the willingness of leaders in this congregation to serve the community.

There was no financial secretary's report.

In the treasurer's report, Gary Wesalo discussed several elements of the budget. He said the catering line is still ahead year to date though income in January lagged. Dues, on the other hand, were ahead of budget for February by \$6,000 though still off by \$28,000 for the year. Fund-raising is ahead of budget so far but that doesn't reflect all of the expenses anticipated from fund-raising events. Nursery school is ahead of budget but has been slowing to the norm. Religious school is running behind. In total, Wesalo said, at seven months into year, we are "holding our own."

For schools and youth, Jeff Schwartz noted the planned dinner honoring long-time nursery school teacher Ina Horn to recognize her contributions to nursery school. He said the nursery strong program remains strong and is taking camp registration now. As planned, an evaluation is pending soon for the religious school director, Ann Ruth Nimberg -

Marcie Kfare, reporting on membership, said free first year membership is being implemented again. There has been discussion about offering the program via email so the offer can be forwarded

David Cukor submitted the report for administration in writing (appended below).

Bonnie Kudwit, for Sisterhood, reported on the Purim basket program. She also said Sisterhood donated \$25,000 for the new Torah

For Men's Club, Steve Katz reported on the World Wide Wrap and Yom HaShoah memorial candles.

Ariel Weg reported on USY's many activities in the recent past, including a multi-cultural event and the Purim carnival. Other events planned include: improv night, prePesach pasta dinner and USY takes over Shabbat.

Cantor Rockman shared plans for Yom Hashoah, Israel independence day and L'dor V'dor. Josh Nelson will be the special guest for LaDor V'dor on 28 April

Rabbi Wolkoff pointed to a few areas where our thinking is yet complete. For instance, he said, a decision is required on whether to permit joint aliyah. That's an issue the ritual committee hasn't yet resolved. And additional thought is required to enhance the Chai school experience in order to make it more meaningful for participants.

For ways and means, Jeff Cadoff submitted a written report (appended below). He also thanked the committee that ran the recent beach party event as well as those who contributed, including by attending. He said it appears we met our financial goal.

A closed session was held.

The open session resumed

Ruth Anne Koenick said the nominating committee is preparing for another round of nominations. She asked board members to indicate their intentions.

Koenick also reminded the board about Mitzvah 613, the project to procure a new Torah scroll for the congregation. A great celebration planned is planned for May 5 when the new scroll arrives. Fund-raising continues. Some of the funds will be used for repairs and improvements. Two of our scrolls already have been repaired.

Katz moved to adjourn (Juro seconds).

Administration Report - Cukor

Most of the exterior lighting issues were fixed except on Sat night when a breaker broke.

Installed an outside siren so, if kids and teachers are in the playground they will know about a fire alarm.

Cement that was fixed in the back has a crack in it....the company that did the work has not billed us yet. They know they have to fix if they want to get paid...a win either way.

Getting bids on a phone alarm system tied into the main office and every classroom in the building

A few snow storms in February, a few dollars spent removing the snow...hopefully we are done with snow and next month I can give a total for snow removal this year.

Decor committee is waiting for 613 to end before starting on the sanctuary redo.

Cemetery committee has rewored the addendum and will be up for a vote soon.

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

VP Ways & Means Report – Cadoff

1. The Texas Hold'em Committee is still actively planning their event and could use more help/members. Please let myself or the chairpeople know if you are able to help. The event chairs are: Alan Miller (908) 421-0506 and Gary Rosenthal (732) 236-5906. The Texas Hold'em date is Saturday April 20th with a start time of 8:30pm.

2. The Beach Party was held this past weekend and was a success. The attendees all seemed to enjoy themselves and preliminary numbers suggest that our fundraising goal will be reached or exceeded. I will report further once we get final numbers.

3. Some miscellaneous Silent Auction items remain from the Beach Party. These items are being placed on the website for sale to a wider audience, and those proceeds will be added to the event totals as they are processed.