

Minutes from Board of Director's meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
March 6, 2007

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Danny Greenberg

In attendance:

Jeff Berger, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Danny Greenberg, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, Ruth Shindler, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Lisa Mason, Hadas Elami, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Rockman

Guest: Alan Kane

No corrections to last month's meeting

President's report:

Reviewed email that went back and forth between him and the Kilcoyne family. Danny spoke to them. There was graffiti discovered in a classroom last Sunday morning. Danny had it painted over. Police were not called in and Danny stands by his decision. He has spoken to the charter school but there is no way to prove who did this. We will just move on from here.

Questions: why weren't the doors locked? With the old maintenance staff there was often a problem finding staff to unlock the doors. The new staff will lock all the classrooms except the babysitting room.

What will we do in the future? Think about it and let Danny know and he will put it on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

The Kilcoynes were satisfied with the resolution.

Danny has asked Marty Abschutz to chair the budget committee. Anyone interested in serving on that committee should let Marty or Danny know. People with line item authority should let the committee know ASAP.

Danny was handed a communication requesting a special general membership meeting requesting that we look into hiring Rabbi Goldstein as our permanent rabbi. The constitution requires that if 15 members request this, then we must hold the meeting. Danny will look at the calendar and schedule the meeting.

Rabbi gave a D'var Torah week's parasha.

Cantor's report: The past month was very busy with many holidays. He complimented the many people involved. There was so much going on. The parking lot was packed, the building was full. This is what makes B'nai Tikvah so special.

Rabbi will be offering a pre-Psach session on March 28th. e will be focusing on ideas for running a multi generational seder.

Financial secretary - Mark Kasdin. We have 425 members. 12 letters were sent, these members will most likely leave. We have 87 on special, which translates to 270 FDPE. This is a dangerous number as it could start to affect the budget.

Treasurer's report Marc Dillman distributed his report and highlighted various aspects of it. We are right on target with respect to the overall budget. Dues are down. Hebrew school income is also down. The full year of tuition should have been received by now. Nursery school payroll is up and is not offset by income.

If someone is going to use money from their fund, the vp in charge must sign off on it.
Reimbursements must have receipts and must be signed by vps.
Small receipts under \$50 can be given to Hadas to be reimbursed through petty cash.

Ed reminded everyone to attend our men's club meeting in April.

Old Business:

Alan Kane - Rabbinic search committee. Alan reviewed that we all understand the restrictions placed upon us and the Rabbi that we both need to move forward with our searches.

We have received 11 resumes. We have telephoned 9, with 2 coming up. Of the 9, we have interviewed 6 face to face. Of the 6 we have invited 2 to come in for a Shabbat visit. Rabbi Szajman has come in and Rabbi Futterman will be in for the week of March 16th. We are phone interviewing all applicants. Alan reviewed the interview questions that are asked. The questions are based on the congregational meetings that were held.

Alan fielded questions from the board.

The RA told Alan that we signed an agreement that we should adhere to the rules of the interim rabbi contract, and that Rabbi Goldstein is not eligible to apply for the job. Alan has asked for a waiver two times from Rabbi Schonberg. At this time we are not being granted a waiver. We must work with the RA and we need to follow due diligence and continue our search and Rabbi Goldstein needs to continue his search.

Alan believes that the meeting that the congregants are calling has no value since there is nothing that we can do. Perhaps Danny needs to reach out to them first. We need to check to see if they are members in good standing.

Jeff Berger asked whether there is any precedence with another congregation. This information is hard to come by.

Alan then explained the continued process. The committee is meeting tomorrow night to discuss Rabbi Szajman to decide whether she remains a candidate. No decision has been made at this point.

Rabbi Futterman coming in, we will get feedback. Committee will then meet to evaluate him. Then the committee would then recommend one to the board. The board then votes, then it goes to the general congregation. Committee needs 75% agreement, board and congregation will be 50%. We will not wait for the following board meeting, Danny will call a special board meeting.

A message should be sent to the congregation asking for feedback, Gary will send that out.

Ruth Schindler expressed her concerns about the Rabbi candidate coming in for her daughter's bat mitzvah. Perhaps this could be handled differently. Perhaps upcoming b'nai mitzvah families could be consulted.

Old business: Passover Poker by Sisterhood. Linda Fellen encouraged everyone to attend. Hadas will talk to Linda about reaching out to other groups.

Hadas: New maintenance staff started. We pay them for extra time for other services. We can bank hours if we don't use them on a particular day. We have booked some rentals which means we will use the staff and not bank the hours.

Dillman - Are we going forward with the litigation? Danny just started putting the committee together, Marty Shindler. Beth Schurman, Paul Zankel and Linda Fellen. There has been no activity according to the lawyer.

New business:

Mark Kasdin - changes to Passport to Israel Program. Mark gave the history of the program. 20 kids have participated in the program and we would like to do better. Keith Zimmerman,

Elliott Danto, Adrienne Ross, Bette Koeffler, Marty Abschutz and Mark Kasdin. Federation's match was raised to \$1000 and we will raise ours as well. We will be publicizing the program and sending out marketing brochures. The mailing is being funded by members of the committee.

Motion by Ruth Anne

Amendment to Article X section 5A:

Prior to the General Membership meeting in May or June at the end of the first year of the President's term, the nominating committee shall designate one Vice President as Executive Vice President. The EVP so designated shall be the nominee to become the next President of the congregation upon the expiration of the current President's term. The designation of EVP shall be voted on by the general membership at the general membership meeting.

Seconded by: Mark Jiorle

The purpose of this motion is to prepare someone to become president. Most boards have this so that someone can learn how to become president and it helps with the transition. Danny explained how the nominating committee works.

If the executive vice president can't serve then what happens. The constitution actually does not spell this out. We will cross that bridge unless someone can come up with something.

Additional discussion followed.

Motion withdrawn by Ruth Anne so she can rework it.

Motion by Gary Bergman:

Move to allow the caterer to erect a sign on Finnegan's Lane subject to township requirements and approved by the decor committee and subject to recommendations of a designated committee.

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

Evan is concerned that his identity is being lost and this will draw attention to the business.

Discussion followed. Jeff Cadoff feels that a professional committee should review where the sign goes.

Vote: 14 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstain,

Motion passes

50 plus report -Aaron –Email was sent and is included with the reports for this month.

Update on March 17th event: Larry Cohen - advertising is closed off. Thanks to those who participated. Rsvps still being accepted. Sold about \$22,000 in tributes, 150 attending but there are a number of people who have not sent in their rsvps who have said that they will be there.

Good and Welfare:

Rabbi thanked everyone who helped sustain the minyan three times a day at the home of Donna Glazer. It made the shivah week easier.

Celebrated the b'nai mitzvot of Adam Dickert, Jonathan Jacobs, upcoming with a run of b'nai mitzvot through the beginning of July.

Motion to adjourn by Bobbi Binder

Seconded by Mark Jiorle

School & Youth Vice-President Report

March 5, 2007

Nursery School

- Registration for the coming year has begun!!
- A new Hebrew language program is set to begin. The program is an innovative method for teaching second language skills in short segments. The program was developed in Israel.

Camp Program

- Camp enrollment has begun!! Please talk this up, as word of mouth is still our best advertisement.
- Hiring has begun, and an Assistant Director has been hired.

Religious School

- The Religious School Board continues to meet to discuss curriculum and the school direction. This is a very exciting process and we look to implement the board's ideas for the coming school year.

USY/Kadima

- The USY and Kadima ran games, etc at yesterday's Purim Carnival. Thanks to all of them for their time and effort.

College Program

- The next packages will be for Passover.
- The program will need a new director/chairperson for next year. Many thanks to Marcia Schwartz and her committee for their excellent efforts over the past years (too many for me to count). Please direct anyone interested in running this program to contact either Marcia or myself. We would like to see the next chairperson involved in the Passover package to ease the transition.
- Please encourage those you know with college children to contact Marcia Schwartz with the children's school mailing information.

Youth Commission

- THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE PURIM CARNIVAL **AWESOME!!!** A special thank you to Dorothy Cohen, Mike Brown, Beth Schurman, Hadas Elami, Lisa Mason, Cantor Rockman, Rabbi Goldstein, the Sisterhood, and the MANY others that helped make this the BEST carnival in many years. You have created yet another wonderfully fun and positive event for our families, children and community at large. **MAZEL TOV!!**
- Call/email Mike or Dot and join us for the next installment of "B'nai Tikvah In Your Life".
- The Commission is sponsoring two **"Latte & Learn"** sessions at the Route 1, Barnes & Nobles for USY aged children (Non-USY members very welcome!). The sessions will be led by Jessie Olitsky and will discuss current events in a Jewish context. Admission & lattes are free. Sessions will be held on April 15th and May 6th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- The Commission is exploring the implementation of a web-based Youth Calendar that would include all Kadima, USY, Religious School and synagogue sponsored youth activities in one place.

MEMBERSHIP

I have to admit that every BT dedicated minute I have had this past month has been spent on the Rabbi search, the March 17th event, or on sisterhood business (Mishloach Manot) so there is very little to report on membership. The Rabbi and I have finally found a date in common to hold the Bikkur Cholim meeting (haven't given up yet and the difficulty in finding a date has been mine, not his). I have responded to new people requesting information. Next month should be more active.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood was very busy with Purim activities. We distributed wonderful Mishloach Manot, and held a wine tasting to kick off our annual wine sale. Many of you were there, and sampled an amazing selection of kosher wines. The wine order form is in the Hakol. Please continue to support Sisterhood.

Please note our upcoming events:

- March 11. 10 am: **Oprah Winfrey interview with Elie Wiesel**--Wlie Wiesel discusses his book "Night" and tours Auschwitz with Oprah.
- March 18, 10 am to 12:30: **Adult CPR certification**. Reservation required, flyer in Hakol
- Saturday, April 7, 8:30 pm: **Passover Poker**: easy to learn game in which you play each round with a different pair of opponents. Great prizes for winners, silent auction, fabulous desserts. Flyer is in Hakol, and is also attached. **This event is open to the synagogue and the entire community. Please bring your friends--our big fundraiser for the year, and a great way to spend Saturday night during kol hamoed Pesach. I will be taking reservations at the board meeting tonight, so bring your checks to reserve a spot!!!**

MEN'S CLUB

3/9/07 - Men's Club sponsored shabbat dinner
Sports theme
wear sports jerseys

Next meeting is 3/18
Bernie Flashberg
retired teacher- did Holocaust study over the summer
multi-media presentation

Yellow Candles will be picked up at Marlboro JC Wednesday evening
I will be arranging a packing date with the office - TBA

4/1 Meeting
Rabbi Charles Simon
Exec Dir - International Fed of Jewish Mens Club

4/29 Meeting - Road Trip
Jewish Sports Hall of Fame
Long Island

May meeting - authour of the book "Yankees Haters"

June 3 - Road Trip
Trenton Thunder baseball game
includes kosher box lunch
details to follow

Administration VP Report

March 2007

Religious Activities

Tu B'shvat – Program was attended by 95 people. Good idea to have the service before the dinner. Thanks to Rabbi Goldstein for his wonderful program and wine.

Shabbat Shira – well attended but people left after lunch. Next year we need to have a light snack, singing and then lunch. The program has become popular, now we need to get people to stay.

Purim – Couldn't have been better. Saturday night had 75 attendees. Ben Gottesman's Power Point presentation for Sunday's Megillah reading was a big hit (again). The Purim Carnival had a packed house.

The new amud has been installed in the bet midrash.

Learner's minyan has begun. Howard spoke at service this past Shabbat – perhaps name needs to be changed.

Passover – the guide is included in March Hakol along with the service schedule, sale of chametz form, etc. Minyan will be at the Rabbi's house for the first two nights. Ben will make sure that there is Haftarah coverage during that holiday. The kitchen will be thoroughly cleaned for Passover since Sisterhood is baking in it. The cake for the Shabbat before will need to be stored elsewhere, perhaps right in the social hall.

Torah replacement – Elliott Danto suggested that we look to trade in one of our Torahs for a lighter one that will be easier to lift. He will start this research.

Elliott suggested that more people learn how to lead more of our services

Maintenance

Our new contract with "Star Maintenance" took effect last Thursday and the transition went somewhat smoother than expected.

House & Grounds

The basket ball hoops need repair due to misalignment. The problem resulted from other sub-contractors making changes without the knowledge of the manufacturer during the initial installation. To fix the problem at minimum cost, we rented our own hydraulic scaffold. This allowed us to make several needed repairs in the parking lot, gym, and sanctuary.

Locks were replaced for the two sisterhood closets in the coat room.

Electrical problems are still being addressed for the caterer's landscaping.