

Minutes from Board of Director's Meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
North Brunswick, NJ
May 5, 2008

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

In attendance:

Stu Allen, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Cindy Gittleman, Rene Juro, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, Jeff Schwartz, Mark Sherman, Ruth Schindler, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel
Lynn WeissMarshall, Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman

Correction to minutes: page 2, "in George Segal's old workshop"

D'var Torah given by Rabbi Wolkoff: This week's Torah portion talks about how a Kohen cannot go to a burial unless immediate family, or Kohen Gadol to any funeral. This is hard to explain to people in current terms. Rabbi gave us an explanation that we need the Kohanim to remain holy for the day when the Temple is rebuilt.

President's report –Ruth Anne thanked Jeff Schwartz for the event yesterday, over 100 people in attendance. Music was fun. Diversity in age. The Yom Hashoah program, reading names - thanked Rabbi for the program. Thanked Sherry Valan who coordinated the readers.

Israeli exchange program - thanked Alan Kane and Gary Bergman for working on this. The exchanged went off without a hitch. Many people within the congregation helped coordinate individual events and will be thanked at a later time, including people who hosted.

Rabbi's report - Rabbi distributed his report. Aleph consecration this Friday night. Hei class and chai school graduation. Israel celebration May 22nd, Rutgers Hillel annual meeting.

Rabbi passed around the template for the calendar planning to urge everyone to get dates handed in.

Cantor's report - This Thursday night will be an event, we have makelah, Sons of Tikvah and some of our students performing. May 22, 2008 at State Theater, performance - sold out. Cantor is performing, our children are performing with a children's group as well. Cantor is excited about the musical opportunities at BT. He may have a performer for the L'dor va dor concert next year. Wants to make sure that the marketing committee works with the Cantor to include the musical aspects of BT.

Financial secretary - no report. 264 FDPE.

Treasurer's report - Marc Dillman distributed his report and reviewed the highlights. We are about even with regards to income but that is because some categories are way over and some are way under. 271 is the FDPE that the budget is based on. Fundraising is behind with little chance to recover that deficit. Room rental is under for the new wing. Expenses - admin PR is down because we were without one for many

months. Cash flow situation is stable. Report on budget committee - Marty Abschutz is not here because we are not close to finishing it up. There was a schedule for people to turn numbers in but people were weeks late in doing that. The committee has not had sufficient time to evaluate these numbers and come up with reasonable numbers for next year.

Started fiscal year with \$56,000.00 in surplus carrying into this year, we have not used it all, that is going down to \$36,000.00. However, there is difficulty with the subsidy that was voted on 3 years ago, this is the final year. The \$27,000.00 is not available for the coming year. Plus our FDPE will be based on 260. This affects other line items, high holiday pledges, school, etc. Religious school numbers have gone down. We need to come up with \$70,000.00. The committee has looked at individual requests; every number that they have said is good and is still up for review. Information flow has been difficult. An increase in dues would be extraordinary to make up for this. There may be a special board meeting called so that the board can review it.

Allison pointed out that membership is growing. Allison reminded us to buy scrip. This is found money for the synagogue.

No questions to VP reports - no questions to auxiliary reports.

Festival report - Aaron Rosloff. Aaron's main idea for the festival is to spread the good name of BT. Aaron checked out the park to see where things will go. Cantor just gave Aaron contracts for some of the entertainers. 11am to 6pm. Musicians, children's entertainer. "Rejoice 2008" will be the name. We have \$18,000.00 collected so far and we need a total of \$25,000.00. Hopes this will become an annual event. Reached out to 30 synagogues and are hearing back from them. Jewish organizations as well. Corporate sponsors.

Cindy Gittleman -marketing committee. Closed survey right before Passover. Working on analyzing the data to be presented at the congregational meeting. The info will be available on the website after the meeting. Working on reorganizing the website. We include much more than most sites. Updating the look and feel. Working with membership on the ad campaign. Organizational structure of putting on events at the synagogue so that committees don't step on each other's toes. The process is huge but important and still needs to be worked on. Got 208 responses to the survey.

Danny Greenberg - nominating committee. Danny circulated the proposed slate. Committee was Mitch Frumkin, Rene Juro, Steve Katz, Phil Welsher, Bobbi Binder, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman.

The slate will be presented at the congregational meeting in June. The June meeting is the last one for trustees leaving the board.

Lynne WeissMarshall - she needs to know when there are meetings. Maintenance staff needs to be here. Lynne distributed calendar with dates that are already in place. Needs dates by May 31st. First come first served, conflicts will be discussed.

Good and Welfare -

Mazel tov:

B'nai Mitzvah: Lauren Wistrich and Lindsey Brody

Refuah Shelemah

Ann Cherson, Mort Leader, Evan Grollman, Stacy Lewkowitz, Irv Natkow

Deaths:

Kenneth Greenfield, Allen Karp.

Mark Sherman invited everyone to his daughter Hannah's luncheon celebration on May 24th.

Cantor let us know that Rabbi Goldstein has cancer and is going through treatment right now, but expects to be fine. He will be telling his congregation and board tonight.

Regards from Rabbi Eligberg to the board through Ed Birch.

Aaron Rosloff has contracts that need to be signed for the festival, they need to be signed by Ruth Anne. Need to get deposit checks for these entertainers.

Motion to adjourn to closed session by Danny Greenberg

Seconded by Gary Warner.