

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Minutes from board meeting July 6, 2004

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Arie Behar.

In attendance: Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Mitch Frumkin, Marc Dillman, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Al Garten, Keith Zimmerman, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner

Board members introduced themselves.

Arie stressed the importance of board members being involved and attending meetings. Give by example, our time and our pocket.

August 1, 2004 will be orientation for new board members and board members who have changed positions. 10:30am at Arie's house.

Additionally, to set rules and regulations regarding the expansion, starting next month we will form subcommittees to discuss how the building will function. We will have one session in October regarding how to use the new building. The congregation will be invited to the meeting as observers only. Danny Greenberg will be chairing the committee and will bring all the information to that meeting.

Motion for approval of June minutes by Dan Greenberg, seconded by Harold Schneider. 17 approved, 1 abstain

New Business: Proposal to buy a new telephone system for the synagogue. The existing system collapsed over the weekend.

Motion by Dan Greenberg: "Authorize the leasing of a new phone system for 48 months at the \$1.00 buyout option."

Seconded by Keith Zimmerman.

Discussion:

This new system can be included in the new wing. If we have plans to run wires, this can be included now at a cost.

\$6,400.00 approximate cost for new building.

Marc Dillman suggested that we buy out the system. Take money from house and grounds, amortize the purchase, self-finance the purchase and borrow against ourselves.

Amended motion: "Authorize the purchase of a new phone system, not to exceed \$9,200.00, which covers the cost of running wires into the new wing."

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

Vote: In favor 18, opposed 1, abstain 1

Expansion update: Mitch Frumkin. Contractor has been terminated and we have taken over the job. We have been in contact with our attorney. We have been tabulating cost regarding things left out of contract, work done that needs to be redone.

There are many items that should have been included in contract, causing the total cost of the job to be \$1,790,660.

There is a lot of water in the multi-purpose room, we can't pour the slab until we find out where that water is coming from. A permit needs to be issued for the fire protection water line.

Roof is on and finished on the multi purpose room. The rest of the roof will be finished in a few weeks after the sloping is done. We can go after the original contractor but we still need to bridge the money issue until then. Our problems stem from the fact that the original contractor underbid the job and then realized that he made a mistake.

Dillman: Financing commitments are in place. We don't have contingencies for additional money. There's only \$724,000.00 for the new building. We need to get more money from donations and pledges to meet the differential, which is about \$229,000.00 (how much we need vs. how much we have).

As of June 30th \$840,000.00 pledges and other donations have been collected.

\$108,000.00 received from caterer. \$17,000.00 in various accounts collecting interest.

\$964,000.00 total amount received to date. We anticipate, without additional drive

\$1,109,000.00. Shortfall of \$269,000.00 yet to come. This does not account for bad

debt. \$1,283,000.000 cost of the whole project allocated.

\$445,000.00 soft costs

\$1,791,000.00 actual hard costs

\$2,235,000 actual cost of project.

We took out a \$400,000.00 credit line for short-term purposes, knowing that pledge cash flow would extend beyond the cost of construction to be paid back within two years. We need more pledges and revenue. We need \$228,000.00, plus. The bankers are aware that the project is costing more. They would like to see that we have more pledges.

Arie and committee will be meeting with Jeff Schwartz to move his campaign along.

Mitch would like to see everyone on the board to get involved in this campaign.

Arie reminded everyone that the board needs to present the situation to people outside the board carefully.

Acknowledged Mitch for all of the work that he has been doing on this.

No old business.

Treasurer's report was handed out.

Financial Secretary report: Mark Kasdin. No change from the report from June 28th congregational meeting.

Men's club, Al Garten: Last program was Trenton Thunder game.

50 plus: 30 people attend the camp get away, 8 of them were not members. Trying to put a trip together to see Dracula, a new musical version. Always looking for members.

This Thursday, Federation is having the professional networking group at B'nai Tikvah. Let Mitch or Keith know if you want to attend.

Naomi: What's going on with the tile that was put out front? There's a lip, people are tripping. Arie will be checking with the caterer to have this fixed.

Mark Sherman reminded everyone to give blood at our drive on July 18th. and that he's running a drive on July 21 at his office in New Brunswick. Call Mark for more information.

Jeff Cadoff motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruth Anne.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT JULY 2004

1. NEW MEMBER COFFEE HOUSE:

We will be having a prospective member coffee house event on AUGUST 11TH AT 7:00 PM. All board members are welcome to attend and help answer questions about the synagogue. Please let me know if you can attend.

2. OUTREACH PHONE CALLS:

As an effort to "touch" each member of our congregation, and help them to feel more connected, all members of the board, will be asked to call a list of our fellow congregants and say hello. Our hope is by trying a one to one outreach, inactive synagogue members will learn more about BT and what it has to offer on a very personal level.

3. FOCUS GROUPS:

Over the course of the coming year, a series of focus groups will be held to learn more about the needs and wants of our congregation. They will be done in a small group format, invitation only.

4. TEE SHIRTS:

B'nai Tikvah wear was well received this year and will continue to be sold.

5. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT:

In the spring, membership will organize a "THANK YOU" party for all our members who have helped out over the year. (the Jewish year). It will be an open invitation for all volunteers (identifying themselves). Any ideas, please feel free to share them!

THANK YOU,
CINDY GITTLEMAN

School & Youth Vice-President Report July 6, 2004

Nursery School

Nursery School total surplus exceeded our 2003-2004 budget projections. Enrollment increased from a projected number of 63 students to 75 students. Our Mommy & Me program has over 25 registered students, with all classes filled to capacity. Our total enrollment for the school was approximately 100 students for the 2003-2004 school year. In addition, although our enrollment significantly increased over our projections, our total expenditures did not exceed the 2003-2004 budget projections. We surpassed our fundraising goals – Approximately \$5,000.00 was raised. Our goal of having a computer in every classroom was also realized.

Added Nursery School programs include Our Rhymes & Rainbows enrichment program for our two-and-a-half-year-olds, which started in February, and a new Shabbat program where parents were invited to celebrate Shabbat when their child was the Ema or Abba.

Nursery School special programs and trips included farm trips to pick fruits for Sukkot, a trip to Buckingham Place to visit our senior citizens, a theater trip to see "A very Eric Carle", a live reptile show, a live furry pet show, a Stellar Space program from Mad Science, a Dinosaur Dig program from Mad Science, and a yoga program during healthy food month.

Religious School

Our Religious School has grown, and we have expanded the scope and breadth of our activities, services and programs in the last year. Our enrollment increased to 240 students in Kindergarten through Chai School. Our Chai School program alone boasted 51 students and nearly half of them volunteered their time as teaching assistants, tutors and office helpers

Our creative programming continued to expand, as well. We had school wide activities, individual class PACT (Parent and Child Together Activities), newly formed--C.A.F.E. (Cultural arts for enrichment) programs this year--where each grade created a uniquely designed ritual object or religious artwork, guest speakers, interactive workshops and special performances. Some of the highlights this year were Jewish Book Month author, Fran Manushkin; a Jewish book fair; Chanukah fun activities; Purim in-class parodies; Passover chocolate seder; Yom Hashoah special presentation of The Last Butterfly; Gimel model wedding and others.

We began the year with our TEAM theme...TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE. Throughout the year we engaged in studying Torah together, doing acts of loving-kindness and giving tzedakah. We gave tzedakah with all our hearts and as a result we had the privilege of donating to 18 organizations.

College Program

Marcy Finkelstein continued to chair our College Program. This year, each of our registered college students received packages for Jewish holidays throughout the school year.

Kadima Program

Our Kadima program is for students in grades six through eight. We had 51 members join for the year. There was a huge turnout at all regional events, and we were among the top chapters in the region at each event. Most months, Kadima held two or three activities.

Between Kadima and USY, we have 22 students who are going to encampment in August. Ten of these are first-time attendees at regional events, 8 from Kadima and 2 from USY.

USY Program

USY is our youth program for high school students. We had 55 members this year. Our chapter hosted the Midwinter Convention at our synagogue this year, and it was an enormous success. At the Spring Convention in April, Elyse Ross was elected Regional Communications Vice President. Our chapter was honored with 6 awards, including Chapter of Excellence.

I want to thank all of the people who helped with our schools and with youth activities this year. These include:

Ann Kanerek, our Religious School Education Director

Fran Pearlson, our Nursery School Director

Marcy Finkelstein, chair of the College Student Committee

Bobbi Binder, Lisa Seidman, and Kim Riemann, chairs of the Religious School Committee

Adrienne Ross and Toby Ehrlich, co-chairs of the Youth Commission

In addition, thanks to the teachers and to all the congregants who served on the committees and helped with activities.