

Congregation B'nai Tikah Board Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 7, 2003

Attendees: Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Cantor Rockman, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman  
Guest: Marty Abschutz

Call to order:

Meeting called to order at 8pm by Arie Behar.

Approval of minutes:

Moved by: Keith Zimmerman

Seconded by: Harold Schneider

Minutes passed. 1 abstained.

Divar Torah by Cantor Rockman

Introduction of Board members:

Everyone present introduced themselves

**Introduction of Robert's Rules: Marty Abschutz, guest.**

An introduction to Robert's Rules was distributed.

Main points:

- Points of order/information.
- Calling a question
- Table
- Postpone
- Amending

For a more detailed explanation, see handout.

Questions followed, which Marty answered regarding Robert's Rules.

**Presidents Report/Arie Behar:**

Construction of new wing is being chaired by Mitch Frumkin. Committee members: Arie Behar and Paul Zankel. Construction report will be sent out to all board members.

Reminder: No one should approach builders, all concerns or questions about construction should go through Mitch. The construction area will be fenced in. There are final details which need to be worked out. Footings will be set some time in July, actual construction to begin in September. Drains will be cut to connect to sewer line, close to the building.

Discussion:

- Marc Dillman: Where will barrier be?
  - ✓ Answer: about 4'-5' from curb. We won't be able to drive around circular driveway. Caterer has been involved.
- Do we have definitive numbers?
  - ✓ Arie signed okay to proceed. Our number is \$1.509 contract amount plus contingency. Mitch has exact number.

- Mark Kasdin: Should we issue a construction update for web page?
- ✓ Arie said that he will write letter to congregation with answers.
- Sherman: Do we know how we are setting up for Hebrew school?
- ✓ Mitch's committee will meet with school to figure out the best way to handle school and will report back after he meets with nursery school and religious school directors.
- Builder can't come back to us and change numbers, unless there are changes that we make. He cannot exceed our number. Guaranteed maximum price contract.
- Frank Waltzer: Will there be a picture or scale model for people to look at?
- ✓ We have a drawing. It would be expensive to make a model. Mark Kasdin added that right now all we have are spaces; we don't even know what we are putting in each room.
- Jeff Cadoff: If turnaround will not be used, will the building still be handicap accessible?
- ✓ There is a cut in the curb near the handicap parking.
- Rendering may be useful for membership issues to show people what the building will look like.
- ✓ Mitch: Floor plan and elevations have been posted and should be in lobby.
- Harvey Finkelstein: Who will authorize changes?
- ✓ Construction committee. They know what amount they can approve up to. Otherwise, they will go to board.
- Gary Tinkle: Can we move fence around to accommodate parking high holidays?
- ✓ Arie: We are concerned about this and will deal with it at that time.

Rabbi's contract is up next year, we need to tell him by Nov. 1, 2003 what our intention is as to whether we are going to enter into negotiations to renew. We have pushed this date to after our Nov. board meeting. Feedback committee will report at the August board meeting. Mitch is chairing this committee. Contact Mitch if you want to review the records regarding the Rabbi that we have accumulated over the last 3 years. Nov. meeting will be dedicated to discussion about contract.

Discussion:

- Mark Kasdin: Survey takes a lot of work, takes a few months to compile.
- Mitch: Immediate past president is the chair of the feedback committee.
- Marty Abschutz: If board agrees to send a new survey out, results will be in Sept. so that at Oct. we will compare it to the base survey that we did 3 years ago.

Arie received email from Jodi Marcou: Jodi received a letter from the Benoff family thanking her for all the work and efforts that our congregation has done to help the Benoff family with regards to their daughter who has cancer. The family is not a member of our synagogue, they are considering joining. Arie wants to give them free membership.

- Cindy: Motion to give Benoff's one year membership to our synagogue at a nominal amount perhaps one dollar.
- Seconded by Harvey:

The family lives in Hillsborough. Cindy thinks they will take advantage of our services.

- Mark Sherman: Comment that they are unaffiliated and that their situation may change that. Are we setting precedence for the future?
- ✓ Tinkel: President and Rabbi have always had the power to extend an honorary membership. We don't need to vote on it. This has been done in the past.

Arie will speak to Rabbi.

**New business:**

**Capital Campaign Summary/Mark Kasdin:**

Currently we are \$80,000-\$90,000 behind in collection. 3 categories:

1. A pledge was made with the understanding that if the family left the synagogue or moved, they wanted the right to end contributions at that point. We have to honor that.
2. People who have left and owed money on pledges and are not going to pay.
3. Families who are suspending pledge payment until they see a hole in the ground. Hopeful that once construction starts they will resume payments.

A number of families who were solicited and were told that we will build what we can afford. Some families gave money with the understanding that we would not incur any more debt. But the congregation approved of the larger building and more debt. Some families say that they didn't agree to it. These families pose a real problem. How do we treat these people? Mark wants to defer this conversation. He proposed that Hadas prepare a list of past due pledges and have the president appoint a small committee and send a letter outlining where we are in expansion process and encourage them to meet pledge. Summarize results and make presentation and then decide what to do. Wants to go slowly but find out where we stand.

Discussion:

- Keith will help.
- A pledge of \$25,000 in services was not counted in that, but that person is no longer interested.
- Dan Greenberg wants Gary Tinkel on the committee, he knows people's financial situation.
- Gary Tinkel: Pledges are a separate issue when dealing with forgiveness. He said that not a lot of the people on forgiveness are the ones that are behind in dues. How do we want to go after the people who have left and haven't paid?
- Mitch: Mark Roller and Jeff Schwartz should go back and help collect that money; they said they would do that.
- Marc Dillman: We are going to have to make commitment with our banks, we don't want to borrow more than we need to or less than we have to have. Suggests that we move quickly so we have good information.
- Solicit new members to contribute to the expansion.
- Gary Warner: Get new members involved in other things before we ask for money for the capital campaign.

Arie will appoint committee by tomorrow and let Mark Kasdin know.

- What about members who just decide they don't want to pay "just because." If someone signed a pledge card, it's a commitment.

**Men's club release from caterer's fee:** Federation of Jewish Men's club will be hosting their "Man of the Year" dinner at B'nai Tikvah. They don't want to pay the typical \$4.50 catering fee. They want to pay \$2.50 instead. We would like them to

come here and get more of our members involved on a regional level. It is a week day event. We should encourage the event here.

Discussion:

We owe that organization a lot because they forgave us some money that we owed them in the past.

- Jerry Kaminsky: No motion is needed. President should decide.
- Gary Tinkel: Disagreed. Shouldn't let president decide, should be Executive Committee's decision.

Danny will address these issues and report to the board.

**Constitution amendment regarding past presidents:** Harvey Finkelstein

Recommended an amendment to our constitution:

*Be it resolved, all past presidents of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, including those who served as president of our predecessor congregations, shall be elected as permanent board of trustee members and shall serve as long as they maintain membership in good standing status. Permanent trustees shall have the same rights and privileges as any other board member or officer of the congregation.*

Seconded by: Gary Bergman

Discussion:

- Cindy Gittleman thinks past presidents should have an active roll, participate on committees and stay active.
- Arie: Comment that we don't do enough to recognize people who have served in the past. We should restore our past. Arie has asked Larry Cohen to chair committee to honor past presidents.
- Marty: How would these new members fit into our quorums? Constitution committee should firm up the amendment. This would be a permanent trustee position and therefore they would not be counted in a quorum. Special status as permanent trustee.
- Marc Dillman: Need to give it more thought, maybe more to it than we realize with issued that need to be ironed out.

Dan Greenberg will take care of it.

Point of information: Constitution committee needs to come back with exact amendment.

18 in favor of passing this on to the Constitution Committee

1 against

Motion carried

**Old Business:**

Mark Kasdin: Construction contract has been looked over, no objections. Attorney has it. Irwin Millinger will call attorney tomorrow 7/8/03. Mark Kasdin would like an update from Mark Sherman.

Mark Sherman: Picked Fleet Bank, our existing mortgage is there. We will have a construction loan while construction is going on. We can't lock in rate until bank approves us.

Mark Kasdin thanked Mark Sherman and committee on getting us the best deal.

Question: Is this a fixed rate? 10 year fixed, 20 year amortization, with the 1<sup>st</sup> year, interest only. Borrowing \$400,000 which will be prime while we wait for the money to come in. Balloon after 10 years. Need a new loan after 11 years.

1.1 million construction loan, interest only. That turns into permanent mortgage.

We asked to be approved for more because of the outstanding pledges. We want to be able to borrow less.

**VP reports:**

**School & Youth/Harold Schneider:** Nursery school enrollment numbers will be available at the next meeting. We have hired a new Kadima advisor, Adam Sackett, as well as an assistant USY advisor, Audrey Lifton.

Review of board member information that was included in the back of the notebooks which everyone received. If there are corrections to be made, let Roz in the office know, she prints those sheets up for the board.

**Catering Committee /Jerry Kaminsky:** Jerry will be meeting with caterer quarterly. If you have questions, etc., get them to him. Caterer has concerns about USY convention this winter, which will be addressed at a future meeting between Jerry and the Caterer.

**Membership/Cindy Gittleman:** Flyer passed out regarding coffee house. Let her know if you can attend and want to schmooz. Flyer will be mailed to people whose names have been suggested as potential members and people who have requested info from the office, from 2001. The information will also be in newspapers.

**Fundraising/Mark Sherman:** Report distributed. March 13, 2004 will be our big fundraiser.

- Mark Dillman: Wants information on scrip program.
- Committee meeting. Andy Ross and Marc Binder will be monitoring this. Adding an additional safe, need to figure out where it will go. Scrip can be ordered 2 weeks in advance and delivered to congregant. Bette Koeffler coming up with order form. Gary Warner added that each board member will be asked to make calls to congregants to get the message out to make this program successful.

Marc Binder, Andy Ross, Gary Warner, Mark Sherman, Bette Koeffler, Linda Feinstein, Rachel Shaneson, Bobby Bergman, Gary Bergman, Dan Greenberg, Larry Cohen, and Marc Dillman are on the committee. Next meeting has not been set.

- Mark Kasdin: Will people be able to call in to see how close they are to their commitment?
- ✓ Reports will be available, not sure how often they will be run.

Arie: Send a letter to congregation reminding them about program and how they can reduce dues by buying scrip. This new program begins August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Activities VP/Gary Bergman:**

Social action: Beginning new program, food of the month.

Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, comedy night.

1st Thursday every month has been set aside for theater night. One program set so far for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Calendar is on schedule.

The building is now "wireless". Gary will set that up for you if you are in the building and want to utilize this feature.

Mark Kasdin thanked Gary Bergman for his work on the calendar.

**Financial secretary/Gary Tinkel:**

We are down to 438 members. 296 dues paying equivalents.

We have 9 members who have not paid dues. 3 of these families have children in Hebrew school. Gary wants to call these families to find out if they want to still be members. 5 families are registered for religious school and are behind in dues and tuition.

**Treasurer's report/Marc Dillman:**

Highlights: Income is over what we budgeted for. Expenses are higher. Haven't paid utilities bill in 3 months, they haven't sent us one. Our meter has not been read.

- Question: Instead of borrowing from bank, can we use the \$486,000 in the expansion fund?
- ✓ Marc Dillman, yes we can do it. We should consider this, it means depleting cash on hand. It means we don't have to borrow from anyone. Board should decide this. Means we wouldn't dip into the short term borrowing, we have the line of credit. Arie wants Marc Dillman to look into this and report back.

**Men's Club/Mark Kasdin:**

Ed Birch is the new president of Men's Club. Planning meeting is set for this Wednesday night, 7/9/03. Bowling league made a profit of \$2,700 for 2002/2003. This will go to the synagogue as a contribution. Thanks to Bobby and Gary Bergman. Encourage as many as possible to join the league. 14 teams last year. 1 Saturday night each month. Looking to revitalize the Men's Club.

**Sisterhood** - not present, no report.

**50 plus** - not present, no report

**Good and welfare/Cantor Rockman:**

Mazel Tov:

1. Ruth Anne Koenick and Paul Herman on marriage of son, Joshua
2. Danny and Lois Krantz on marriage of son, Joshua.
3. Brad and Penny Cohen on Bar Mitzvah of son, Danny
4. Ronnie Katz on Bat Mitzvah of daughter, Caitlin
5. Daryl and Sue Gurney on Bat Mitzvah of daughter, Rachel
6. Gary and Bobby Bergman on birth of 2 grandchildren
7. Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to Millie Rosloff
8. Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to Ruth Adler

Refuah Sh'lemah:

1. Elliot Danto broke both his legs
2. Aaron Rosloff back problems
3. Rene'e Levin back problems

Condolences:

1. Adrienne Rogove, death of father
2. Daryl Gurney, death of mother
3. Dan Kurschner, death of father

Motion to adjourn: Harvey Finkelstein

Seconded: Gary Warner