

Minutes from board of director's meeting July 10, 2006

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Danny Greenberg.

In attendance:

Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Linda Fellen, Danny Greenberg, Marlene Heller, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel
Hadas Elami, Cantor Rockman

Motion to accept minutes from June's meeting by Jeff Cadoff

Seconded by Gary Warner

Vote: all in favor, 2 abstain

Danny welcomed new trustees. Trustees\board members introduced themselves and gave a brief background about themselves.

President's report:

Reminded us that we have a candidate Rabbi who will be with us Friday through Sunday. There will be many opportunities to meet Rabbi Selch and Danny encouraged everyone to attend as much as possible. There will be a board session on Sunday.

Cantor's report: Cantor gave a D'var Torah.

Met with Janice and Ann to discuss the curriculum, feels that we are moving in the right direction.

North Brunswick is creating a resource team that will be made up of clergy and civic leaders and they will deal with youth in the community. The Cantor was invited to be a part of this committee.

Mincha/Maariv services are being held at the cantor's house during the summer. This has been successful. There have been 20 to 30 people attending these past two weeks.

Cantor discussed minyan being held at a non-members home.

This was done and a donation was already made to our synagogue. It is a good outreach program and we should not turn away non-members.

Danny reminded everyone that Rachel Shaneson is at the board meeting to sell scrip.

Financial Secretary report: Mark Kasdin. There are 435 members, 276 fdpe, 88 members of special arrangements. Danny and Mark will be reviewing the list of those people who have been on the list for over 18 months and they will be put on full dues unless they get back to them. We will be asking for documentation. We have not received information from members that their situations have changed.

Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman passed his report around. Marc gave an explanation as to what the report is for those new board members who may not be aware of what the report represents. Marc gave an overview review and went over the highlights of the report.

Arie wanted to know how we are doing with the collection from the expansion.

Marc Dillman feels that we are not that far off.

We signed the contract for the charter school and received first 3 months plus 2 months security deposit. Approx \$65,000.00. An account was opened for this account. This will not reflect on our income statement because it is going into the reserve fund. We need to find out whether we need to pay them interest on this account.

We still have not gotten back the bond from North Brunswick. The township has acknowledged that we have done everything we needed to and we just need to wait to get that money.

We also need to go back to the caterer regarding increased utilities expenses from this past weekend. When Hadas comes back from vacation this needs to be worked on.

Question about arbitration: No news yet. Danny will give us an update when he finds out.

Additions to VP reports: Ruth Anne worked out two dates for an open house. She will be putting ads in some newspapers, if anyone has something going on, please get in touch with Ruth Anne in the next couple of days.

Auxiliary report: Danny asked that the auxiliary people email their reports so that it can be distributed the same way that the vp reports are.

Men's club: Starting to plans things for upcoming year. Still working on the book mark idea. They need help in September setting up the sukkah and setting up the chairs for the holidays.

South Brunswick Board of Education had a presentation re: kids and porn on the internet and they will make the presentation for us. Just need to firm up a date.

No sisterhood report, board has to meet yet.

Old business:

None

New business:

Motion by Bobbi binder

To establish the Religious Activities Fund for the purpose of funding future religious activities and events. Money will come from the profits from the monthly Family Shabbat dinners, profits from any other holiday events and donations made directly to the fund. The fund will be controlled by the Religious Activities Committee and monies from this fund will be spent at the discretion of said committee.

Seconded by Ruth Anne

Explanation: This fund will help offset special events, i.e., Special Family Shabbat dinners that may cost more than families can afford, Rabbi in residence programs.

Vote: 19 in favor, no opposed, no abstain.

Motion passes

Motion by Arie Behar:

That we begin the process of starting to look for an interim Rabbi.

Seconded by Mark Jiorle

Committee needs to be formed, survey needs to be filled out.
2 members from ritual, 2 from current search and Danny will work on this.
Discussion: What is the length, are there options? Who makes these decisions?
This depends on how we set up the negotiations. Much of this is not up to us.
Vote: 19, no opposed, no abstain

Motion passes.

50 Plus Group - Aaron Rosloff: There was a program that was well attended.
Still trying to figure out how to get people to join. Possibility of evening meetings
while the days are still longer.

Hadas reviewed room reservation forms and letting her know that a room is
needed and what the event is. Even if there is an event that is taking place off
synagogue grounds. This way she is aware of what's going on, this is for
informational purposes.

If donations are made, make sure that the money goes through Hadas so that the
donation can be credited to the member. This is needed for end of year tax
purposes. When in doubt, ask Hadas.
Hadas is willing to make a list that has the descriptions of what each fund is for
what the money goes for. Hadas will start working on that list.
Calendar deadline is approaching; get your info to Gary.

Good and Welfare by Cantor Rockman:

Mazel Tov: Tidenena and Todd Kamen on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joshua;
Arlene and Marc Lassin on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aaron; Cindy and David
Mevorah on the B'nai Mitzvot of their children Alexandra, Jeffrey and Jennifer;
Carol Winter on the birth of her first grandchild a baby boy
R'fuah Shlema to: Jan Handelman; Donna Glazer; Bernie Binder
Condolences: Richard Margolis on the death of his mother, Gertrude; Fran
Shapior on the death of her mother Rose Rudnick; Marty Haller on the death of his
mother, Sylvia Haller

Cantor requested that everyone please keep him informed of illness.

Cantor reminded us to let him know when there are people in the hospital. The
clergy cannot just go in to the hospitals any longer. People must check off when
they are admitted that they will accept clergy visits.

Ed thanked nursery school for the lox stock and deli fund raiser.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Eligberg on accepting the position in Toronto, Canada.

Board moved to executive session at 9:10pm.

VP of WAYS and MEANS

Monthly Report

July 2006

Giants Raffle: Have you purchased/sold tickets? This is the final month before the

Drawing! Please call Irwin Millinger.

Supermarket Scrip: A representative will be at the Board meeting selling scrip, PLEASE PURCHASE some that night.

The committee has done a great job this year and will have sold \$165,000 worth of Scrip for the year. It has already begun looking for ways to increase this figure for the new fiscal year.

E-Bay: Bonnie Kudwitt is constantly looking for items to sell! Please call her or just bring items for sale into the office. Our first year in the program earned over \$800.00!

Fund Raising Committee: I have begun to ask people to join the committee and so far have four members. The plan is to have the group look at the current programs we have in order to see what if anything can be done to increase earnings as well as look for new ideas. If you have any suggestions for members, please pass them onto me.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS !!!!!

VP Membership
July Report
July 7, 2006

The strategic planning group met again and we are working on the section of the website for membership, developing a flyer for the referral program, and researching any reliable congregation surveys that we might use to learn more about specific needs and thoughts that our members have, so we can try to address them.

The nursery school “free membership” was announced at the graduation and received with very positive responses. Hopefully, some of the families will join.

We are planning two open houses in August and I continue to contact prospective members.

Since we know that personal contact is important in getting and retaining members, we want to make sure that people who participate in programs, especially those who are prospects, receive some follow up contact. So, we are asking that anyone who chairs a program (such as Family Shabbat, adult education, etc.) use the sign in sheet I am providing and return it to me so that we can develop a data base to use for mailings and to inform people about other activities.

I placed an ad in the community guide, expanding listed services to include some of the JCC activities.

I sent a note to the family of each b’nei mitzvah wishing them mazel tov.

Administration VP Report

July 2006

House & Grounds

A leak in the plumbing in the wall between the new kitchen and the library had caused considerable damage. Charley Bloom donated his resources to fix the source of the problem and the rest of the cleanup was covered by insurance. The carpeting is expected to be complete by the end of next week. Some of the repairs have been done by our own staff with the resulting savings going towards our petty cash fund.

We are seeking donations to replace the Coat Room lockers with a custom made permanent cabinet in the hallway by the office.

Charter School

Work is under way to relocate the security doors between the Nursery School and the new wing. As part of this effort, repairs are also being made to the existing security and alarm systems.

The school has brought in their own DSL internet service with a shared wireless gateway for use by anyone in the building. They are also installing their own telephone/intercom system in all the classrooms.

Work is being completed by our staff and volunteers to refinish the new kitchen and provide drop down ceilings in the areas required by Charter School.

Religious Activities Committee

Marc & Bobbi Binder are co-chairing the committee this year.

Haftorah Readings

Ben Gottesman has taken over the job of assigning Haftorot from Bernie Adler's very capable hands. There are several shabbatot throughout the year for which we need congregants to chant the haftorah, as well as on the holidays. If you'd like to participate, please contact Ben to let him know if there are specific dates you're interested in and how much time you need to prepare.

Summer Schedule

The committee is working hard to coordinate volunteers who can lead services and read Torah during the summer months when the rabbi and/or cantor will not be present.

High Holiday planning

It was discussed that having congregants line up in the middle of the sanctuary for Ne'lah services was a distraction. It will be changed so that the line goes up the ramp (aiding anyone who cannot navigate the steps) and then across the bima.

Selichot Program idea: To hold the trial of Abraham for his attempted sacrifice of his son Isaac. We would ask various congregants who are lawyers to participate.

Minyan coverage

It was suggested that when USY has their monthly meetings that they lead Minyan.

Suggested starting a Sisterhood group to teach women how to lead Minyan.

Other ideas were discussed, such as...

Holding services at various congregants homes (Floating Minyan) on secular holidays during the year (New Year's Eve, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, December 24th). Advertising would have to be VERY clear, including postings on the building with clear directions to congregant's house. Starting time of 8:00pm would accommodate travel time from the synagogue to someone's house in case they still want to attend Minyan.

Bobbi will meet briefly with Cantor/Rabbi to discuss RAC issues every Thursday morning during the year

School & Youth Vice-President Report

July 10, 2006

Nursery School

- Graduation went very well and was enjoyed by all participants.
- A school survey was distributed to parents near year's end and the results will be used to improve the program.
- 2006 – 2007 enrollment is currently over 50, which exceeds the projected enrollment increase.
- A new administrative assistant was hired at the end of the school year.

Camp Program

- Camp began on June 26th as scheduled. The program is running smoothly and new children continue to enroll.
- Staffing advertisement through the synagogue produced an abundance of responses, and an experienced staff was hired.

Religious School

- The School has hired a new administrative assistant.
- Year-end curriculum review is underway to determine where improvements can be made.
- Chai School remains a potential growth area of the school. Programming suggestions are welcome for this area. Please contact me via email with your suggestions.

Kadima/USY

- USY elections were held at the school year's end. The Chapter will be clarifying officer qualifications and election procedures based upon questions raised during and after the elections.

Youth Commission

- Dorothy Cohen and Mike Brown are the new Youth Commission co-chairs. Several new members have joined the Commission. Welcome!! There is always room for more on this committee. Please feel free to contact/or direct others to Mike, Dorothy or myself if you are interested in helping out.
- Purim Carnival planning will begin with the new school year. Volunteers and/or ideas are always welcome.