

**Minutes from Board of Directors meeting
August 7, 2006**

Meeting called to order by President Danny Greenberg at 8pm

In attendance:

Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Al Garten, Danny Greenberg, Marlene Heller, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Steven Katz, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel
Hadas Elami, Lisa Mason

Motion to accept minutes

By Al Garten

Seconded by Mark Sherman as amended in email.

All in favor

President's report

Interim rabbinical search committee - members: Alan Kane, Marc Binder, Elliott Danto, Linda Kohn, Arie Behar, Danny Greenberg

7 resumes received, reduced down to 3 in person interviews. We have asked 2 candidates to come back to our synagogue. They will be in this week. Tuesday and Wednesday as per the letter and email that Danny sent out. Rabbi will give d'var Torah followed by Q & A. Committee will choose rabbi at meeting on Thursday. Danny will send out their resumes. Gary will post them on the website.

One of the rabbis would use the parsonage, the other one would commute during the week and the family will join him for Shabbat.

Salary and benefits negotiable.

New committee has been appointed, long range strategic planning committee.

To keep an eye on things that are occurring and keep us on goal, master plan.

Paul Zankel heading. Mae Rubinstein, David Marcou on the committee.

Cantor on vacation.

Arie Behar: Ramla fund report. A quick victory is not happening, there is only misery and suffering. There is a great humanitarian problem, people living in bomb shelters, without jobs, in need of basic needs. We have an obligation to help these people. A fund has been started to specifically help the children who have been forced to leave their families. This is a huge burden to families who are hosting these children. The generosity of our community has been overwhelming. We have exceeded the \$10,000 goal. But we need to give more. Arie spoke with the mayor the other day. He sent a letter to everyone who has contributed.

Financial secretary Mark Kasdin- 431 members, 77 special arrangements, 286 FDPE. The numbers start to move around this time of year.

Ruth Anne wanted to know why she did not get notification as to the 4 members that we lost. Hadas will give her an update.

A significant number of members have been moved to full dues, approximately 8 to 10. These members may respond that they still cannot afford full dues. We have not heard from them.

No treasurer's report since Marc Dillman has been on vacation.

Steven Katz questioned whether we can ask members to give of their time.

Danny explained that we have not done this yet.

Fundraising meeting is scheduled for Wednesday after minyan but we have the visiting rabbi, the time will be changed to after the Q & A.

Mark Sherman and Gary will work on a committee for volunteers for helping out around the synagogue.

Charter school is close to filling their capacity. There will be an open house this week.

Old business - Rabbi search - our questionnaire will be back up in October. Everyone will continue to serve on the committee. The process will start again. We cannot recruit the interim Rabbi as our full term Rabbi.

New business:

Motion by Gary Bergman:

To allow the caterer to put up a permanent awning at the expense of the caterer with the approval of the board once the details have been approved by a subcommittee. This must comply with all governmental requirements.

Seconded by Mark Jiorle

Arie would like more specifics. He would like to know what kind of awning, etc. Mark Sherman suggested that we have a subcommittee to work with the caterer. Subcommittee will be Hadas, Aaron, Gary Bergman, Steve Katz, Jeff Cadoff. Then it will be passed on to the décor committee.

Who will own the awing should be considered. Who will maintain it

Vote: 16 in favor, 3 against, 0 abstain

Motion passes

Motion by Jeff Cadoff:

That Article IX – Board of Directors, Section 1 of the constitution be revised to establish the United Synagogue Youth delegate as voting member of the Board of Directors.

Existing constitutional language:

"One delegate from each of the following organizations:

- a. Sisterhood
- b. Men's Club
- c. Fifty Plus Group
- d. United Synagogue Youth (non-voting)

Proposed revision:

"One delegate from each of the following organizations:

- a. Sisterhood
- b. Men's Club
- c. Fifty Plus Group
- d. United Synagogue Youth member whose family is a synagogue member

The USY delegate will be included in non-executive sessions only

Seconded by Al Garten

We currently have all groups represented from the synagogue on the board except USY. There is a board seat for USY. Jeff feels that they should be given a voice that matters, hopes to encourage participation. He thinks that USY should choose their representative. Discussion followed.

Vote: 4 in favor, 11 opposed, 3 abstain.

Motion does not pass

Changed wording to remove "non executive sessions only"

Vote: 7 in favor, 11 opposed, 1 abstain

Motion does not pass

Beth Schurman: proposed changing station in bathrooms in new wing. Gary Bergman will make this happen.

Question regarding the bond - have we gotten our money back yet? One of the escrow accounts will be released to us \$21,000 approximately. The other one will be released when the township gets around to us. The third one, developers account, we don't know who to go to get that money back we are investigating that. Total is approx \$25,000.

No news about the arbitration.

Motion by Jeff Cadoff

To approve negotiations with the Nursery School Director on a one-year contract extension through the 2007-2008 school year and Summer Camp 2008."

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

Camp has made money, nursery school enrollment has been exceeded by 15 more than the projection, possibly as much as 20. This motion will allow the contract come to an end at the same time as the religious school director's

contract to allow us to explore other opportunities at that time. This will be seen in a positive light for Phyllis to be able to give her a three year contract.

Discussion followed.

As soon as school starts, Jeff will approach her. We want to see final numbers from the camp and nursery school.

Vote: unanimous

Motion passes

Marc Dillman: Anyone who has salary budget responsibilities needs to give him the information as soon as possible. They may not get paid next week.

Danny reminded us all to refrain from conducting synagogue business on Shabbat.

Motion to end meeting by Gary Warner

Seconded by Marlene Heller

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

August 2006 Board Meeting

NY Giants Ticket Raffle: Thank you to Irwin Millenger who ran the even and to everyone who sold tickets. We raised \$7500.00 from it.

Scrip: The final numbers from the fiscal year are in:

137 families purchased scrip at least one time during the year. Over \$164000 was sold and the profit from the program was \$8167.00. Thanks go to Rachel Shaneson and all the members of the committee for a their success.

Fund Raising Committee: We will be holding our first meeting on Wednesday August 9th.

Currently, there are eight members on the committee and more are needed. Please provide me with names of anyone you think would be interested in joining.

**VP Membership
August 3, 2006
Ruth Anne Koenick**

A flyer about the membership referral program went out in the July billing. I've received some good feedback. I've also written a piece about that and about the nursery school membership category for the HaKol. Will get something to Phyllis to distribute to the nursery school parents.

I am working on the development of a Bikur Cholim, and have scheduled the first meeting for October 19. A piece about this is in the Hakol as well asking for people to be part of this committee.

We have an open house scheduled for August 24th. I have done a mailing to my prospect list. Please talk this up and tell people you know who might be looking for a synagogue to join.

I've placed several ads in the Jewish News and have given Bette Koffler information for press releases for the local papers/media, hoping for something free.

I sent a note to the family of each b'nei mitzvah wishing them mazel tov. Am up to date as of today. I'll continue to call the designated gift givers and help them with their presentation. These calls have been well received and although not everyone follows the rules, I think the presentations have been better organized, more direct, and not embarrassing.

The new items for the welcome bags are in and I will try to catch up with those who haven't received this "formal" welcoming in the next few weeks.

We are going to have a t-shirt sale, hoping to sell off some of our inventory. Bonnie Eisenberg will organize a sale during the first day of religious school and we are asking our youth groups to help as well. Also, we'll put one in each new welcome bag.

Finally, I am sending a sign in sheet for you to use at all events. We are working to capture the names of non-members who come to our programs so that I can send them a thank you and provide them with additional information about our upcoming activities. I did this for casino night and want to continue this practice. Please make sure all your committee chairs receive a copy of this sheet and instructions to use them and then return the sheet to me in my mailbox. This is really important and I need your help to make this successful and consistent.

VP ACTIVITIES REPORT AUGUST 2006

CRAFTS FAIR/VENDORS MARKET:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 9AM - 3PM. We are looking forward to having a community-wide event with 50 crafters and vendors. Planning is underway and volunteers are needed. Great opportunity for different groups in the synagogue to fundraise. Still looking for referrals of vendors.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Co-Chairs for 2006-2007 Mae Rubinstein and Jerry Shulman
Fall Trip being planned for October 29th to Tenement Museum in NYC.
Full calendar of programs will be listed in hakol.

SOCIAL ACTION:

Although Social Action does not have a designated chair of the committee, a group of very dedicated committee members; Janice Baer, Jen Shapiro, Amy Smith, Ellen Schneider and Andrea Katz are committed to keeping social action happening. Needy Family Holiday Program, Bingo with seniors, Passover drive, and the Book bag program have all been assigned.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! Contact Activities@BnaiTikvah.org for more info.

BT ATHLETICS:

Men's Open Court Basketball continuing. Tuesday nights 8-10 pm. Non-competitive pick-up game.
Looking to schedule an open volleyball time as well.

HAKOL:

The next addition of the Hakol will come out in September. Thank you to Stephanie Welscher for picking up the advertising piece. We look forward to Beth Schurman working with the Hakol on advertising as well.

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE CALENDAR:

JAN. 13TH - COMEDY NIGHT (looking for chairs)
FEB ? - VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE (adults vs. teens)
MARCH 25TH - FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE
MAY 25TH - CHAI MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE

Thank You,
Cindy Gittleman, VP Activities

School & Youth Vice-President Report

August 7, 2006

Nursery School

- The school currently has 55 students enrolled without “Mommy & Me”. The target enrollment was 50 and should be beaten by ~10 students when enrollment is completed.
- Kudos to Phyllis and the Nursery School staff for re-enlivening the school!!
- Roz is now working mornings in the Nursery School as Phyllis’ Admin Assistant.
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

Camp Program

- The summer camp has been a success. The parents and children have both given positive feedback.
- It appears that camp will make a slight profit, although the exact numbers are not yet known.
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

Religious School

- The RS has 164 registered students (K-7th) and 25 registered for Chai school. The target enrollment was 179 (all grades). We are still waiting on 8 families to register their children and Chai school often sees last minute enrollment as well. Last year’s registration was 195, and a drop off was anticipated.
- Parent packets will be mailed shortly.
- 10 new students (5 in K) have entered the school. 3 new families are represented as well.
- The RS office has been relocated to its old location.
- Teacher orientation will be held on August 30th.
- Toranim orientation will be held on August 31st.

Kadima/USY

- USY and Kadima registration is ongoing. Numbers are at their typical levels.
- The youth are working on painting, cleaning and otherwise refurbishing the Youth Lounge.
- USY/Kadima are selling Israeli honey. Remember us for your High Holiday honey purchases. Please check the website for order forms.

Administration VP Report

July 2006

House & Grounds

The library has been completely restored with new carpeting. Volunteers are being organized to move the books back to the shelves.

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

We plan to refurbish (clean and repaint) the parsonage.

Several needed repairs were made to the security system.

Charter School

Work was completed in the new wing to accommodate the Charter School. Dropped ceilings were installed in the electrical closet and storage rooms, which are being used as temporary offices by the charter school. The security door was moved from its existing location to an area in the old school wing to allow the school's access to an additional classroom.

Office Staff

Lisa Mason has been brought on board as a full-time Programming Director. Roz's office hours have been reduced by half and she is now working in the mornings for the Nursery School to maintain her full-time salary. Lisa will take over some of Roz's responsibilities in her absence.

Religious Activities

Kerry Olitzky has agreed to be the facilitator for a Selichot program (The Trial of Abraham) and is working with the Cantor to gather the team of lawyers that are needed for the night.

Cantor Rockman will bring a Torah that is need of repair to Teaneck.

High Holiday preparations

Naomi Jackenthall agreed to chair the baby sitting committee. Forms were submitted to Hakol and placed on the website.

To: Synagogue Board
From: Linda Fellen, Sisterhood Rep

The following is Sisterhood's report to the Synagogue Board for tonight's meeting.

For any questions or comments, please email me at lfellen@comcast.net.

New board is very excited about the coming year. Our budget is created and will be presented to be voted on at the next Sisterhood board meeting including a \$2,000 allocation to the synagogue. We would like and appreciate synagogue board support of all our programs and fundraisers (for males in the group that means talking to your spouse about attending meetings and participating in Sisterhood functions)

First meeting - we are still working out the program but it will be on Sunday, September 17th

Second meeting - Jewish Life Cycle greeting card making on Wednesday evening, October 18th, after minyan

All meetings - for Social Action we will be collecting something from those that attend the meeting to donate to various charities. For September we will be collecting school supplies to donate to local NJ charities.

Extra meetings/budget added to calendar for the coming year for creative handcrafts projects.

Dot Cohen is responsible for Publicity for Sisterhood this year and has developed a logo that combines the B'nai Tikvah Logo, the Women's League Logo and the word Sisterhood. This will be present on all of our advertising in the coming year as a "branding" of Sisterhood. In our initial mailing in August we will be sending a refrigerator magnet listing all of the 2006/2007 meeting dates and the members of the board along with membership information, gift shop information and information about our flower sale for Rosh Hashana.

Sisterhood has committed to fund the flowers for the bima for 3 major holidays in memory of Suse Rosenstock and the first of the three floral arrangements for the bima will be purchased by Sisterhood for the High Holidays. We are able to do this because of the fundraisers we hold throughout the year, such as the flower sale, and we would appreciate your support.