

Minutes from Board meeting September 8, 2003
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
North Brunswick, NJ

Meeting called to order at 8pm by Arie Behar.

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman, Rabbi Eligberg, Hadas Elami
Guests: Jason Shukovsky, Evan Bernstein, Jerry Edley

Minutes approved by: Marc Dillman

Seconded by: Paul Zankel

3 abstentions

Divar Torah by Rabbi Eligberg

Reminder that next board meeting is Oct. 7, 2003, a Tuesday night.

Arie wrote letter to be mailed to those behind in their commitment for the expansion. We are \$70,000 behind.

On 9/18/03 there will be a president's dinner in Metuchen, all board members are invited. Let Arie know. Sponsored by United Synagogue.

Arie passed out proposed itinerary for Israel trip that he would like to see occur in the near future. Meeting at Arie's house on September 10, 2003.

Sept 17th there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee regarding the Rabbi. Next month the review will be presented to the board. Closed session will be in November.

Guests: Evan and Jason, catering

Classical Caterers was told that the work in the parking lot would be done during the summer. They were promised that the work would be done by September 7th and therefore passed that information onto people who had booked parties. They may not get paid from the parties that were held this past weekend. Caterer included things not usually included because of the appearance of the building. Caterer supplied shrub and Astroturf to help the appearance. The facility was supposed to be left in a clean and neat manner and that hasn't been the case. Jason will turn in an itemized list of additional expenses incurred. They are looking for compensation. There were two parties this past weekend.

Arie said that we need the itemized list in hand before the board can move on any motion. The amount is approx. \$4000. If promises made regarding the site are not kept for upcoming weekend, Catering will be asking for compensation again. Landscaping that the caterer paid for has been ruined and they do not want to pay to replace it. They want a professional service brought in to clean the outside at the start of each weekend.

Mitch: Contractor made a promise that the site would be ready by September 1st. This was the contractor's fault.

Arie let us know that the Caterer has been involved in each step of this construction. A construction site will not look good during construction.

Motion:

To compensate the Caterer for losses or expenditures that he incurred this past weekend, not to exceed \$4000.

Made by Gary Tinkel Seconded by Gerry Edley

Discussion followed.

Do we have recourse with the contractor? Paul Zankel believes not.

We will not lose many parking spaces by this weekend. The lot needs to be striped and swept.

Gary Warner called the motion

Seconded by Gerry Edley

In favor to continue: 7 Against: 8

Discussion continued.

Danny suggested that we appoint a subcommittee to review the itemized list.

Mitch is in charge of that committee already.

Motion to postpone voting on the motion until we have the details

In favor: 10 Against: 2 Abstain: 4

Discussion continued.

Mitch and his committee should review the list and bring that to the next meeting.

We should know before the caterer incurs any costs this weekend.

We should also get in touch with a professional sweeper to clean the lot for this coming weekend.

Mitch wanted to know when we are contacting members who recently joined to see if they want to contribute to our capital campaign. Arie will contact Jeff Schwartz and Mark Roller.

Mitch/Larry: Tree of Life Committee: Request that we add an appeal for this fundraiser during the High Holidays. Possibly make a card available during the High Holidays similar to the ones that we currently have.

Mitch will let the committee know that this needs to be brought to the board and shouldn't be presented during the High Holidays.

Construction: Report handed out.

VP reports:

Gary Bergman: Activities. Report handed out.

Arie congratulated the Cantor and Cindy Gittleman for the great program on Friday night, and to Sons of Tikvah.

Cindy Gittleman: Membership: Report handed out.
14 new member families since July, 2003.

School and Youth: Harold Schneider. Report handed out. There was some vandalism in a nursery school classroom, cabinets were broken into, items were scattered over Labor Day weekend. The doors will need to be locked in the future. The playground has not been restored.
62 enrolled in the nursery school, up from 50 as of early summer.
Fran's contract was renewed.

VP Ways and Means: Mark Sherman: Report handed out

Administrative VP: Dan Greenberg: Report handed out. Harold brought up that USY always speaks on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashana, which is less attended. Rafi Glazer will speak on the 1st day. Danny passed sheets around for ushers and bima duty for the Holidays.

Larry wants to make sure that anyone not happy with honors should see him.

Financial Secretary, Gary Tinkel: 14 new families. Lost 5. 443 member families. 312 dues equivalents. Up 13 from last report. 83 on special arrangements. Letter went out from Arie to families behind in dues or religious school. Those members were not permitted to send their children to religious school, members have come forward and paid up. 30 families didn't get tickets. We usually get 2-5% drop out from these. The rest usually pay or make arrangements.
Pledges are not criteria for being a member in good standing. If a member leaves our synagogue but hasn't paid the capital or High Holiday pledge, they are also considered a member in good standing. We may want to talk about that part of the dues structure.

Treasurer's Report, Marc Dillman: Report handed out. Marc reviewed the highlights.

Men's Club Jerry Edley: North Jersey region will have their annual meeting at B'nai Tikvah in the fall. September meeting will be minyan followed by a new member breakfast. October meeting will be sukkah building.

Sisterhood Cheryl Goldstein: Flyer passed around to order flowers for Rosh Hashana. Upcoming fundraisers: children's fashion show, Mah Jong mania, flower sales, wine sale, Purim baskets. Sept 21st, 1st general meeting. Speaker coming in, topic "Brave Children of Israel". Social action committee collecting food for kosher pantry.

Arie thanked Sisterhood for allowing this board to meet tonight, at the same time as the sisterhood meeting.

Doris Sandrowitz, 50s Plus Group: Bus trip to NYC very successful getting secondary inquiries and outside people. Future trip to AC.

Rabbi's report: Wants to move forward with program of "who we are as a board". 1st meeting will be at Cindy Gittleman's home on November 2nd from 10am-5pm.

2nd meeting: At Jewish Theological Seminary, possible date December 7th. Take a bus and have a guest speaker. Dinner at a Kosher restaurant in NYC, encourage spouses to join for tour and dinner.

Good and welfare:

R'fuah Sh'laymah:

Sharon Franzman, Aaron/Millie Rosloff, Hank Klein, Howard Waksman

Condolences to:

Andrea Allen, loss of grandmother, Carol Alpert, death of brother; Herb Kurzman, death of wife; Jackie Master, death of mother; Norm Politziner, death of mother; family of Sylvia Rimmer; Arleen Uroff, death of husband

Mazel Tov:

Gerard & Michelle Babitts, birth of son Nathaniel; Larry & Dot Cohen, Bat Mitzvah of daughter Margot; Dave & Michelle Greenfield, marriage of daughter Pam to Marc Sher; David & Judy Sherman, naming of their daughter

Motion to adjourn: Naomi Jackenthal

Seconded by: Mitch Frumkin