

**Minutes from Board meeting October 3, 2006**  
**Congregation B'nai Tikvah**

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, Linda Fellen, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Marlene Heller, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Allison Nagelberg, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami, Lisa Mason

Guests: Rachel Shaneson

Motion to approve September's minutes by Marlene, seconded by Ed Birch.

Vote: in favor 12, none opposed, 2 abstain

Motion passes

**President's report:** Danny thanked everyone who worked so hard for the holidays.

Feedback from congregants was very positive.

We have filed the lawsuit against Grant Construction and Danny will keep us abreast, filed 2 weeks ago.

Rabbi will be speaking to us about an all day seminar that he attended last week. Rabbi, Hadas, Arthur attended. We are going to implement a 10 minute program later in the meeting. There will be a short closed session after meeting.

Danny will be ordering more name tags. They are not expensive tags, let him know this week before he orders them. Open to other committees.

Tonight is Al Garten's last board meeting. Danny thanked and recognized Al for his contributions to the board and the synagogue. We presented him with a cake.

Mark Kasdin mentioned that congregants asked about the Makelah and why they did not sing at either Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur services. The group needs a new director because Marty has other commitments. Makelah did not approach the Cantor. We can move forward from this point.

**Rabbi's report:** Thanks to everyone who made it so much easier to focus on the service and what he needed to do throughout the holidays. Thanked Cantor Rockman for all of his assistance behind the scenes every day.

**Cantor's report:** Pleasure to work with Rabbi Goldstein. Cantor would like to work on synagogue skill training with congregants. He had a Torah reading class on Sunday mornings and will continue that. He is going to start another session for new beginners. Cantor would like to assign readings not just use the online service. A great way to grow our congregation from within is to empower our congregants.

Thanksgiving service will be at 7pm at Kingston Church on Route 27. There's a lot going on that day, craft fair, super Sunday.

Rabbi getting a lot of response for adult Hebrew literacy class to start in November, run for 10 sessions. To allow us to read Hebrew, Siddur based classes.

**Financial Secretary, Mark Kasdin:** 431 members, 280 fdpe, 83 special. 17 families did not pick up tickets for the holidays, this number is higher than in the past. Kasdin and Danny will have to reach out to these families.

**Marc Dillman, Treasurer's report:** Marc handed out his report and reviewed the highlights. As expected at this time of year, we are flush. House and grounds is already at \$11,551.00 due to air conditioner condenser units that needed to be replaced. The entire budget for the year is around \$36,000.00. Should the expenditure come out of this line item or Shomrei Tikvah or somewhere else? To be discussed.

Summer camp near final numbers, we made \$24,000.00 revenue, \$16,000.00 expenses, net profit of nearly \$8,000.00. Reminder that charter school money does not show up on this report. The 90 day CD Magyar shows this money.

How are expenses being accounted for with the charter school? The reserve fund shows this, net of expenses. Direct expenses only.

Ruth Anne suggested that the information about the camp be given to Phyllis Dennenberg. This will come from Danny. Our water bill was higher because Phyllis used a lot of water at the camp.

Marc handed out an expansion fund accounting report. The builder's bond was returned to us. Still hopeful that we will receive the other bonds which are over \$9,000.00.

Marc reviewed the highlights of this report. This assumes 100% pledge collection and we have lost some members who had a total of \$12,000.00 worth of pledges and we will most likely not collect that money.

Beth brought up the fact that at some point we should decide how much we will spend against the lawsuit. When is it not worth our while? She thinks we should have a threshold.

Danny responded that the board agreed to go ahead with the lawsuit. The largest expenditure was with the architect. The dollar value now is low, but he feels that we are not at that point yet. Expenditures are not high and we should hold off. Large expenditures have to be approved by the board. Can't always get back legal fees. Don't count on the other side paying your legal fees. We are at the beginning of the lawsuit, not going to stop now.

**Administrator's report - Hadas:** Charter school has been open for a month. There have been less problems than we expected. Examples: Busses arrived for the first day on the same day that our nursery school started. There was a lot of tension. By the third day those problems with unloading the busses were settled. Three charter school families left because of comments made by nursery school families. This was worked out. Issue with caterer school's dumpster. The school is renting their own dumpster now. Some trash problems which are probably caused by the basketball players, not the school. Charter school is cleaning that anyway. Hadas reviewed more examples. This information should be in Hakol and local press.

Bobbi questioned a maintenance person walking around without ID. Hadas will talk to her about this incident. Discussion about security checks for substitute maintenance people.

#### **VP reports:**

Cindy added to her report by handing out a mock up flyer for the craft fair. This is going to be a large event, hoping to bring many outside people in. Looking for help that day. Not just a fundraiser, free to attend. Cindy passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers for that day and to hand out flyers. People need this information 2-3 weeks before. If money is made on this event it will go back into the activity's budget. We can look to these vendors to advertise in Hakol.

Gary Bergman: Congregants kids disrespecting our building. Hole in the wall of the library and broke into the kitchen and made a mess. This has been an ongoing problem. Jeff Cadoff feels that we need to let the congregants know about the damage.

Arie: Federation mission leaving at the end of the month going to Israel, four members of our congregation will be attending. Arie is bike riding again. There is still room to participate in the trip.

There is still a chance to order lulav and etrog until Thursday morning 9am.

Jeff Cadoff: Religious school board met and committee was formed to explore possible changes to Chai school. Linda Kohn chairing and looking for committee members. Why do kids join and then not continue, why don't some join at all? Would like to be able to send information out in the spring. Kasdin suggested a regional Chai school. Any ideas welcome.

**Men's Club:** Two new members attended putting up the sukkah. Thanked Arie Goldstein and Andy Jackenthal. Not easy to do this in the rain. Is there another place to store the sukkah parts? Spivak had suggestion and will talk later.

Rachel Shaneson – Scrip report: Targeting areas, started in Monroe. Brought in half a dozen people who have not bought scrip before. Going to set up distribution points.

**New business:**

Rabbi lead us through exercise that came out of leadership outreach institute. After his presentation, Danny asked that we think about what was said and come back with some ways to implement these.  
Discussion followed.

Arie - discussion with caterer regarding increased cost of utilities. Not retroactive, for the future only. \$62.50 for every part after October 1st. \$312.50 per party for utilities. We have the right at any time to go back to him and go forward with increases.

Caterer signed a contract for catering in kloster. they do not have a kitcdhen, he wants to cater from this facilitiy, starts august, 2007. his contract does not allow him to do off site catering. concern about kashrut. what costs can we incur if he uses the kitchen for these extra cooking in the kitchen. the cost will be minimal. asdking 1000 per month.

Arie:

**Motion:**

To amend the caterer's contract to allow him to use his kitchen for offsite catering in Closter at a cost to him of \$1000.00 per month payable to B'nai Tikvah, for this one site only for five years starting July of 2007.

Seconded by Gary Bergman,

Discussion: Can we raise this cost if expenses are more? There should not be additional wear and tear. The money will be whether he has an event or not.

Vote; 21 in favor unanimous.

**Motion passes**

**Good and Welfare by Rabbi Goldstein:**

USYers collecting food, reminded us to bring our food to support their food drive.

Four of our members have recently been in the hospital. Three are far along on the road to recovery. Morton Leader, Herb Mars, Walter Rosenstock, Ruth Rosen is back in the hospital

Mazel Tov: To Rebecca and Alan Denlow on the baby naming of their daughter, Adina; to The Platz family, The Tunison Family and the Weinstein family for the b'nai Mitzvot of their children, and to the Katz's for the upcoming Katz Bat Mitzvah and the Haberman family on the coming Bar Mitzvah of their son/

Motion to adjourn to executive session by Gary Bergman, Seconded by Gary Warner