

B'nai Tikvah General Meeting

Minutes: December 11, 2000

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mitch Frumkin.

Attendees:

See attached list(s)

M. Frumkin welcomed everyone to the semi-annual meeting which is held according to our by-laws. Number of interesting items going on this year and want to review:

- Capital Campaign for expansion
- Rabbi's contract renewal (current contract expires July 31, 2001)
- Cantor's contract renewal (current contract expires July 31, 2001)
- Caterer contract up for renewal in 2004 but planning necessary today (another 15 years)

Minutes from June 12, 2000 meeting were distributed. Motion to accept by Bobbi Bergman, 2nd G. Tinkel. Minutes accepted as distributed unanimously.

D'Var Torah: Rabbi Eligberg

Many congregants are familiar with the character, Nazrudin. Nazrudin visited the baths in a strange town. Upon completion of his visit, Nazrudin gives a gold coin to the attendant despite being rather poorly treated. On the next visit, he is welcomed with open arms. When he finishes his bath this time, he places two cents in the attendant's hands. The attendant is rather complexed. Nazrudin notes that, "This is for last week, the gold coin was for this week".

There are times when we place things in front of us for where we are going and times when we put things of value on the table for where we have been. This, in fact, has been happening within our community in the commitments that have been made (time, finances, energy) for things received from some and for promises for the future for others. No matter what the reason, it is personal and not to be taken lightly.

Correspondence:

No correspondence

Reports:*Treasurer (Marc Dillman)*

Completed 1999-2000 fiscal year (see attached). For the year, revenues of \$904,827 and expenses of \$915,577, a net negative of \$10,750 which was in accordance with our budget. Current fiscal year revenue is ahead of budget by \$3000. Positive cash flow at this time of year is "normal".

Financial Secretary (Gary Tinkel)

Dues paying equivalents: 450 member families, 81 senior families, 76 families on forgiveness which equates to 326 DPE. Last year, same number of member families but this only equaled to 300 DPE.

VP Admin (A. Behar)

Highlighted one item from written report (attached):

- Cantor has informed us that she has elected not to enter negotiations of a second contract. A new cantorial search committee has been formed with I. Millinger as chair. If anyone has suggestions or thoughts on what cantor should/should not do, please feel free to contact Irwin.
- Question on parsonage: Have all the problems of parsonage resolved (H. Finkelstein)?
 - Issues have been solved with exception of one item from list. Escrow funds for builder will not be released until this is satisfactorily resolved.
- Process of new Hamishim?
 - Replace the two editions currently in use (Hertz, Cohen) with 300 new books from United Synagogue. A special fund has also been set up for donations, if desired.

VP Activities (B. Shapiro)

- Thanked committee chair for all of their efforts
- Danny Greenberg and committee are once again chairing Comedy Night on January 20. Tickets are on sale.

VP School and Youth (K. Riemann)

- Nursery School is having an excellent year. As of January 2001, we have exceeded budget expectations for enrollment.
- Religious school has 250 students. Special programs are off to a great start that have gone well.
- Nancy Danto has retired as our Camp Director. Board is currently examining a two pronged approach: a) searching for a new director or, b) looking to not have camp in Summer 2001 in light of potential construction.
- New Kadima advisor: Leora Traub
- USY has over 60 members.

VP Ways and Means (J. Marcou)

- Place March 3 on your calendar for Wild West Casino Night. Introduce co-chair (Caryl Greenberg and Cyndi Kleinbart).
- Entertainment books ahead of last year. Thanks to B. Safeer for chairing.
- Retail SCRIP has been instituted this year with Andy Ross as chair. B'nei Tikvah earns anywhere from 3% to 14% on purchases.
- Supermarket SCRIP continues to be available. Rachel Shaneson is chair.
- Thank you to Arleen Frumkin and Louann Wolf for co-chairing art auction at the last minute.
- Questions:
 - Costs involved in Wild West have been covered via sponsorships. Thus, any further revenues are profit.

Old Business:*Capital Campaign*

Prior to presentation, Mitch Frumkin read letter of thanks to Judy and Mark Roller, Jeff and Marcia Schwartz who headed the Campaign (attached).

Campaign surpassed our expectations, particularly in light of the fact that we had no "large" donors. We did have, as expected, widespread participation. Some numbers:

- Contacted 427 family units.
 - Refusals from 56 perceived as major donors, an additional 40 from telephone solicitation.
 - 254 pledges, \$1,120,000. 133 signed pledges. 121 verbal pledges.
 - 20 pledges pending which could result in an additional \$50,000 (at least).
 - 30 prospects still to be contacted.
- Thanks the congregation for all of their participation and the numerous volunteers. Feasibility survey estimated we could obtain \$700,000 yet exceeded this number early in the campaign.
- Will be approaching "refusals" to give them an opportunity to reconsider.
 - What percentage is donated stock? Not known and will never be known since we do not carry stock. People pledged cash value, not a stock value. They have the option to pay their pledges with stock.
 - How much goes to professional fundraiser? Total monies is approximately \$90,000 (~8%).
 - Has anything been done to pursue matching funds? We needed to raise our monies first and only then could we pursue matching funds. Fully in favor but has not advanced the effort further.
 - Track family members if they leave the congregation during the term of pledge? Will have to monitor but the pledge is a legally binding document. Anecdotally, if anyone thought that they might not be here in five years, they themselves would reduced the pledge term.

New Business:*Expansion Committee (M. Kasdin)*

Look for the skill sets within the congregation:

Financial: M. Sherman, M. Dillman, J. Plotnick,

Legal: I Milinger, D. Greenberg, J. Schwartz,

Engineering, M. Frumkin, J. Cydoff

Construction/Real Estate: L. Gerstein, B. Shapiro, A. Behar, J. Plutz,

Publicity: B. Koffler,

Project Mgmt: M. Abshutz,

Architectural: P. Zankel

Chemical Engineers: J and M Roller

Arie and Mitch have met with planning board in North Brunswick to gain preliminary feedback and cooperation. It is believed that we can get on zoning board calendar in Jan/Feb 2001. It is desired to be in a position to begin construction in June so that heaviest construction will be during the lowest building occupancy period.

Hired Borrus, Golden, Foley as attorneys. Their fees will not exceed \$3000 for entire project.

Entertained three architectural bids. Awarded contract to Cornerstone. Fees estimated around \$55,000, including all of the Engineering.

Attorneys adjacent to the synagogue (Borrus, Golden and Foley) may allow us to put an entrance way into their parking lot in return for paying insurance. This will help alleviate concerns about parking in the event the caterer has an event while we are utilizing our multi-purpose room.

We will have to relocate trailers for 2-3 months. May need portable generators, etc. Trailers will no longer be needed when the expansion is complete.

It is estimated that cost will be in range of \$110-120 per square foot. Estimate 10,000 square footage. There are additional "soft costs" in the area of \$300,000, which, it is believed, will be funded through renegotiations of the caterers existing and future contract.

*Motion (M. Kasdin, 2nd Phyllis Rosen): **Authorize construction of approximately 10,000 square foot addition to Congregation Bnai Tikvah at a cost not to exceed the net total dollars pledged in the Capital Campaign.***

Questions:

- Binder: Should we remove the "10,000" from the motion so that we do not hand-cuff ourselves in the event that monies raised would not provide a building of 10,000 square feet?
- Adler: Why not proceed with engineering design only as part of the motion and to receive bids. After the bids come in, then vote on size. Requested amendment to the motion that we authorize engineering designs only. *Amendment not accepted.*
- Kane: How large was artist rendering to provide perspective of size? Rendering was 12,000 square feet but this included the assumption that the caterer would be taking the library/youth lounge and these would be relocated into the expansion.
- Kane: Is 10,000 square foot a foot print or 10,000 usable space? We will first build a shell and then be flexible what we do inside the shell.
- Greenberg: Reconsider amendment proposed by Adler since not allowing wiggle room for maintenance costs, furnishings, etc.
- Abshutz: Cannot use funds raised for maintenance since these are ongoing operational costs. When we speak about 10,000 square feet we need 10,000 usable space.
- Shurman: Why are we approving the building without completion of the Capital Campaign?
- Tinkel: Propose amendment: *"net raised from Capital Campaign"*. Amendment accepted.
- Kaminsky: (Caterer Contract)
 - Contract has not been signed and thus information is "directional"
 - Goal: cover "soft costs" of construction through increase that we could get from revisions to existing caterer contract, effective January 1, 2001. This increase would then be incurred throughout the new term (15 years), providing incremental income to the congregation..
- Baer: Once the addition is made, will we still be able to use the Social Hall or Kiddush room? Yes. Our room will enable us to have more "time" when needed.
- Gerbman: What is purpose of renegotiating caterer contract now? One reason related to booking of B'nai Mitzvah dates today that could occur after contract expiration. The caterer therefore needed to know our intentions so that bookings could take place. This also provided us the opportunity for us to obtain incremental funds.
- *Motion to call the question* (Ross, 2nd by J. Edley). **Question called.**
- Motion: **Motion passed with 5 abstentions.**

Constitutional Committee

Amendments deal with section relating to composition of board of directors (Article IX). All motions put forward by S. Rozensweig.

Article IX, Section 1 (2nd M. Abshutz)

...and shall be members in good standing of the Congregation.

This amendment is being made since some of the organizations do not require congregational membership to be a member of the affiliate organizations.

USY representative is non-voting and thus "members in good standing" is not at issue. VOTE: Passed with 2 abstentions. **Motion CARRIED.**

Article IX, Section 1 (2nd M. Abshutz)

Rabbi and Cantor shall serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Board of Directors.

Purpose was to include cantor. **Motion CARRIED**

Article IX, Section 2 (2nd M. Abshutz)

.Officers and Trustees shall be elected for (one) two year terms and may succeed themselves....

First nominating committee will insure staggering so that only 50% of board will "turn over" in a given year..

Motion: CARRIED

Article IX, Section 2 (2nd M. Abshutz)

Except that (the President and) the Vice Presidents shall not serve more than three consecutive terms in their respective offices. The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as President.

Motion: CARRIED with one opposed.

Article XIII (2nd J. Klein)

z. Feedback Committee -- This committee shall facilitate communication between members of the Congregation and the Rabbi and between members of the Congregation and the Cantor and shall report to the Executive Committee. The Committee shall consist of four to six members appointed by the President.

Turning ad hoc committee into standing committee.

Motion: CARRIED with one opposed, one abstention..

Rabbinical Contract (M. Frumkin)

- By contract, had to notify Rabbi whether or not we would enter negotiations. Board agreed to enter negotiations. Rabbi confirmed by November 1st that he did want to enter negotiations. Negotiating committee headed by Gary Tinkel is currently meeting with the Rabbi with report to the Executive committee at their next meeting.

Chazan's Report

Happy to see everyone. Things are going well.

- B'nai Mitzvah progressing nicely.
- Makelah participating in services and other community events. Membership is up but always room for more.
- Encourage some of the post b'nai mitzvah to be more active in services.
- With the help of Bobbi Binder and Dorothy Cohen, starting a 5th/6th graders Torah Reading club. These individuals will participate in Shabbat Mincha services, Junior Congregation, etc.

Rabbi's Report

- This year we were in Catholic Church for Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Hopefully their participation will be a sign of things to come.
- On Thursday, December 21 at 5 p.m., Religious School will join in lighting of the first bulb on our property. Everyone invited.
- On Friday, December 22, Channel 11 would like to do a Chanukah thing from 6 - 8 a.m. Arriving at the Parsonage around 5:15 a.m. They asked for us to provide a "handful of children" and anyone with young children that would like to participate please let the Rabbi know.
- January 7th, annual blood drive from 11 - 4 p.m.
- Annual Martin Luther King service will take place on January 14 at 7 p.m. at Six Mile Run Reform Church.

- February 7th is Tu B'Shevat Seder. Reservations will be accepted shortly.
- Shabbat Shira is February 10th.
- Adult Education is sponsoring a series of guest Rabbi's beginning in mid-Jan. and through the end of Feb. Each lecture can stand independently if unable to attend all.
- Series of open forums to look at issue areas and identify areas of opportunity to move forward successfully together.

President's Report

Every year since 1946, Millie Kutliroff has requested someone to head a fundraiser for the erection of markers at the B'nai Tikvah cemetery. The board has decided to utilize funds available and purchase markers, erecting them in honor of the Kutliroff's for their many years of service.

Long-range planning/expansion committee kick-off on January 28th. Kerry Olitzky has agreed to head long-range planning group. Please let either Mitch or Kerry know if they are interested.

Good and Welfare

Recovered from illness:

- A. Katronetsky (heart attack)
- J. Cohen (disc surgery)
- E. Bach (broken wrist)
- A. Flumen (back)
- S. Berezin
- J. Mailman (eye)
- S. Katz
- A. Katz
- Howard/Myra Dickert (pneumonia)
- R. Mory
- R. Cohen (A. Rogove's mother)
- M. Rosloff
- J. Rosuck
- L. Seidenstein (back)
- F. Shapiro
- E. Suttner
- S. Stotzfus
- B. Baum
- E. Danto (heart)
- S. Eberle (heart)
- J. Creen
- H. Loewn
- N. Uroff
- Shapiro family (pneumonia)
- S. Millinger
- H. Hochstatdt
- H. Berk
- K. Reimann (gallbladder)
- D. Spigner (surgery – 12/12/00)
- J. Stern (M. Finkelstein's father)
- R. Seidman (surgery – 12/19/00)

Condolences:

- Jerry Silver (father)
- Bonnie Kudwitt (mother)
- Carol Marx (husband – Ted)
- Richard Seidman (mother)
- Jack Weintraub (mother)
- Richard Schiller (mother)
- Judith Swan (father)

- Linda Feinstein (father)
- Alan Karp (mother)
- Linda Goldstein (father)
- Howard L. Rubenstein (mother)
- Steve Talmud (father)
- Cheryl Goldstein (grandfather)

Mazel Tov:

Bnai Mitzvah:

- Alyssa Tannenbaum
- Josh Kober
- Yonaton Heit
- Matthew Biderman
- Dan Gonchar
- Amanda Dillman
- Sarah Koenig
- Samantha Rudin
- Noam Brown
- Mara Gittleman

Births:

- Hank and Judi Klein on birth/naming of granddaughter, Samantha Mason Feder
- Melissa/Phil Fisch on naming of Abigail Rose
- Andrew/Adrienne Charwat on birth of daughter

Engagement:

- Joel and Eleanor Weisenberg on engagement of daughter

Miscellaneous:

- Fred Steit on publication of book.

Motion to adjourn M. Abshutz, 2nd R. Koenick 9:56 p.m. PASSED.