

TEMPLE BETH-EL Board Meeting, September 23, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Steinborn, Arthur Berkson, Susan Fitzgerald, Mike Lieberman, Alison Mann, Patrick Quinn, Bill Stein, Terri Sugarman, Abby Train, Lisa Willman, Dave Zeemont, Rabbi Paul Citrin

ABSENT: Mike Mandel, Josh Rosenberg

GUEST: Erich Zameret

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mark Steinborn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
2. MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE: The minutes were approved as presented. Mark noted that we received correspondence from the Mesilla Valley Hospice thanking us for the \$500 donation in honor of David Steinborn.
3. RABBI'S TEACHING & REPORT: Rabbi Citrin thanked Dave Zeemont and the Mensch Club for putting up the Sukkah. Thanks to Dave, the ushering at the High Holy Days went very smoothly. The Adelante will soon have a new mast head thanks to Jordan Train. At 5:30 on Saturday, 25 September, KRWG will air an interview with Rabbi Citrin. This Saturday evening there will be a Sukkot Festival of the Arts entitled Harvest/Water/Joy.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Lisa briefly reviewed the TBE financial status, including cash on hand. Mark asked about the URJ MUM dues. Lisa recommended that the \$7400 be paid in monthly installments of \$625.
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. SHABBAT CALENDAR: Bill passed around the Friday night Shabbat announcement calendar and it was updated through mid-November.
 - b. FUTURE PLANNING: Alison has taken over as chair and will present information next month.
 - c. TORAH ENDOWMENT PROJECT: When Mark made his announcement about the project on Erev Yom Kippur we had over \$51,000 with \$45,000 already paid. Expenses should not exceed \$42,000 with \$29,000 going for the new torah and the rest for repairing the old torah and purchasing the digital display. The first visit by the sofer, Ron Sieger, will be on October 17. He will examine our torah and give us an estimate for repairing it. Mark made the following motion: The excess funds from the Torah Project will be used to establish the TBE Endowment Fund. The interest will go into the general account while any use of the principal must be approved by the board. Seconded by Mike Lieberman and passed unanimously. Mark stated that we will purchase a digital menu board. Each week, it will display the names of individuals who have made donations for the Torah Project. Patrick stated that there should be a motion of intent. Patrick's motion, seconded by Mike was: It is the intent of the board to spend funds from the Torah Project to purchase a digital board to display the names of the donors and to maintain the display through the life of the torah at TBE. Motion passed unanimously. Mark recommended that someone needs to call for quotes and coordinate with the Aesthetics Committee for the digital menu board. Terri volunteered. The rabbi said that he is working with the Aesthetics Committee to have a plaque of plaques. The rabbi stated that Leora is designing a certificate to be given to the donors of the Torah Project.

- d. TBE POLICIES: Patrick said he will need to get critical people in place before proceeding with the review.
 - e. CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Lisa talked to Judy Bennett about Christian symbols in the cemetery. Judy says she has no control and will not remove them. Since TBE authorizes the sale of plots, Mark recommended that we draft an agreement or contract that the purchaser must sign. We need to have a lawyer examine an enforceable contract. TBE, as the broker, will not allow the sale of the plot unless the person signs the contract. Lisa asked how much we are willing to invest in a lawyer. She also would investigate if TBE could purchase the land or plots. Perhaps we could negotiate a deal for the purchase. Alison asked if they would maintain it even if we purchased the plots.
 - f. RABBI'S COMPUTER: Abby stated that Jordan and Alec Train will investigate the cost of replacing the computer.
 - g. STORAGE FOR CHAIRS: Mark said that TBE has a storage unit. However, Debbie Levy says there is no extra storage space. Dave has a quote of \$37 per month for a 6x10 unit. Dave made the following motion, seconded by Terri: Amend the budget line item for storage to \$1200. Passed 9-1-0.
 - h. MEMORIAL BOARD: The cost for the new Yahrzeit Board is \$3785. Mike Weeks will investigate the cost of replacing bulbs.
6. NEW BUSINESS:
- a. KITCHEN FUND: Alison has coordinated with Terri and Debbie Levy to draft a policy. The rabbi suggested that we require that a private party who uses the kitchen must hire cleaning help. Terri asked who has ownership of the kitchen. It should be the temple's responsibility while the Sisterhood can manage certain events. The rabbi said that we should have a contract that includes a rental fee. Mark said that what is missing from this policy is a contract for private parties. Alison with Terri and Debbie will redo the policy to broaden its scope.
 - b. BUILDING MORTGAGE: Lisa stated that TBE owes \$78,000 on the building. This year we will pay \$4,000 in mortgage interest. Lisa recommended that we pay off the mortgage. Dave asked if there were any hidden cost in doing this. Mike made the following motion, seconded by Patrick: Authorize the Treasurer to retire the TBE mortgage. Passed unanimously. Mark would like to make an event out of retiring the mortgage. However, this does not let anyone off the hook for building pledges.
 - c. RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE: Mark said that Patrick will be the committee chair. We have sixteen volunteers. The URJ recommends at least eleven committee members. Mark and Patrick will meet with each potential committee member. Patrick is forwarding information to the CCAR for an announcement. We hope to have candidates by February. We also have an opportunity to interview graduating students from HUC. Patrick stated that the URJ recommends that we complete a future planning effort simultaneously.

- d. JEWISH FESTIVAL: We may have a Jewish Festival for the Las Cruces community in March. We will need to have an Entertainment Committee and a Food Committee.
 - e. BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mark stated that we need a new chair for the Building Committee. Dave recommended Al Woods.
7. SISTERHOOD REPORT: Terri stated that the Sisterhood is still in a state of flux. We can always use more help in the kitchen. Nancy Rushforth and Eve Palanker will be coordinating the food for this Saturday's Sukkot Festival of the Arts.
 8. MENSCH CLUB REPORT: Dave said that the members are gearing up to support Rabbi Kane's course on Isaac Bashevis Singer.
 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board reviewed the application of Jack & Margaret Petrowsky and Michael & Rebecca Eddy. Motion to accept the applications passed unanimously.
 10. ADJOURNMENT: The next meeting will be October 28. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Stein