

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Allan Goldstein, President, at approximately 7:10 pm.

The following persons were present:

Allan Goldstein; Stephan Rubin; David Lewis; Jeff Actor; Karen Lukin; Sherri Taxman; Leah Wolfthal; Henry Jakob; Seth Lerner; Steve Conaway; Aaron Howard; Michael Engelhart; Karen Bernstein; Tom Samuels; Grant Caplan; and, Amy Halevy.

Also in attendance were the following persons: Rabbi Ranon Teller, Larry Estes, Leonard Goldstein, and Cantor Lance Rhodes.

The following items of business were addressed at the meeting:

1. *Prayer or Blessing (offered by Allan Goldstein)*

“One should anticipate the future”.

2. *USCJ issues and initiatives*

Overview by Allan Goldstein.

3. *Dues (Grant)*

Grant Caplan is our representative in vote on the USCJ dues proposals. Definition explained. Allan says he believes intent is to capture auxiliary revenue, but this is a gray area. Endowment funds not counted until applied to shul budget. Our current obligation is \$22k; if approved, would increase to \$26k. Caplan recommends we vote NO as proposed. Webinar is scheduled next week. He will attend on the Web. Allan will yield his position as authorized rep.

(Rabbi Teller arrived, with “bursting” of Birthday wishes...)

Tom Samuels explained that the proposal allows USCJ to not have to ask for dues increases per congregant and will “ride up” the revenue “wave”.

Grant Caplan moves that we vote NO on the proposal, as presented. Seconded by Tom Samuels. Votes in favor, 10; voting against 3. Motion passes. Discussion ensued as to how Grant Caplan responds to any changes proposed. David Lewis moved that Grant Caplan, with advice and input of Larry Estes, have discretion to act in our best interest. Seconded by Leah Wolfthal. Allan asked if there was anyone who feels that vote should be No regardless. Unanimous outcome.

4. *Health Insurance Plan (Tom and Larry)*

Allan advised that USCJ put together a program for shuls to provide employees with health care program. Currently, we use third-party administrator to provide health care and payroll.

Larry Estes says we use Tri-Net Program. Program will create trust, or self-insured entity. Premiums are collected, from which claims are paid, with a catastrophic insurance policy to cover “stop-loss”. Cigna administers. We pay approx. \$477 per employee for coverage. Out cost is projected to increase.

David Lewis moved that we table the decision. Allan Goldstein said next Board Meeting will be devoted to Chaim Herring. Leah Wolfthal seconded. (No actual vote was required because SOP for Board would be to table the matter anyway.)

Larry Estes to supplement presentation with information and, if requested by a board member, to give notice of additional information to be provided.

5. *Feedback from letter to Congregation regarding Cantor status*

Allan Goldstein asked Board Members for feedback received from Congregation. Rabbi Teller said he and Cantor Levine chose not to discuss the matter with the B’nei Mitzvah families. Aaron Howard reported that Melvin Buck asked questions.

6. *Benefactor and membership appreciation and development – Maxine Goodman*

Rabbi reported we will engage in “light touches”, including birthday acknowledgments. Allan encouraged Board members to suggest ideas.

7. *Financial Update (Tom or Milton)*

Tom Samuels reported. Collection efforts ongoing to address shortfalls. Upcoming Art Sale and Men’s Club Shabbat programming will raise additional revenue for CBS.

8. *Membership Snapshot*

Allan Goldstein reported little change in membership numbers.

9. *Facilities and Enhancement plans for Brith Shalom Proud (David)*

David Lewis discussed having a group of students that sweeps the entire building, having students take ownership and promoting pride in shul. Working on establishing rules and policies for synagogue use, to be approved by Board, with help from facilities Committee and Religious School. Will also formalize policy and rules for Kitchen use, with input from all Users, to be approved by Board.

10. *Kitchen policy evaluation*

David Lewis discussed formalizing policy and rules for Kitchen use, with input from all Users, to be approved by Board. Allan Goldstein moved to allow vote on communicating a policy of paying a refundable \$100 deposit for kitchen glassware / plates (unless an objection communicated to President) due to conflicting information given to B’nei Mitzvah families. Seconded by David Lewis. Jeff Actor tendered \$100 to cover deposit. Votes for suspending rules, 6 voted for, 1 voted against, 4 abstained. Motion passed. Jeff Actor moved that President send message that no deposit will be required at this time in the event tableware is used since Actor tendered \$100. Seconded by Stephan Rubin. 9

in favor; 2 against. Motion passed.

11. *Bne'I Mitzvah guidelines board education*

Allan Goldstein wants Board members educated as to what the guidelines are. Karen Bernstein and Rhoda Goldberg will prepare presentation to Board at March meeting.

12. *Platforms to tell the Brith Shalom story – Principles of Entrepreneurial Culture*

13. *Safrai Gallery fundraiser update (Larry)*

Grant Caplan reported that we will have a Host Committee to help defray production costs. Will pay \$180.00 to serve as a Member. A benefit would be to allow guests. Will be limited to 20 Hosts. Benefactors evening, with Host Committee members, on Thursday evening. No funds collected from Host Committee will be shared with Safrai Gallery.

14. *Texas Kheillot Shabbaton (Allan) - passed*

15. *Good and Welfare*

Grant Caplan reported that he is already experiencing success in obtaining Host Committee Members.

Allan Goldstein complimented Board for participating in discussion and expressed gratitude for previous Board for setting us up success.

Rabbi Teller reported that we have an excellent energetic Bar Mitzvah and Ruach ahead.

David Lewis received his black belt in Tae Kwando. He also had a paper accepted for a national conference with a great review. His father is coming home (applause).

Michael Engelhart announced Nat Levy is special guest for Men's Club Breakfast Meeting this Sunday.

16. *Larry Estes Contract Review* (professionals excluded)

17. *Tzedakah*: the sum of \$42.00 was collected.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm

Congregation Brith Shalom (CBS) is an Egalitarian Conservative Jewish synagogue that strives to be:

An intimate community that welcomes everyone as family, encouraging personal relationships with our spiritual leaders and each other;

A spiritual community that is created through personal growth and active participation;

A compassionate community that cares for every member, for *klal yisrael*, and for all people in need;

A learning community that seeks deeper knowledge of Torah and commitment to Jewish

values;

A sacred community that nurtures every individual's Jewish journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan Rubin,

Secretary