

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: March 19, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Allan Goldstein, President, at approx. 7:06 pm.

The following persons were present:

Allan Goldstein; Stephan Rubin; Moshe Even; Marc Malacoff; Aaron Howard; Steve Conaway; Jeff Actor; Seth Lerner; Sheldon Weisfeld; Solomon Lahana; Michael Engelhart; Karen Bernstein; Milton Mosk; Lisa Lowenstein; Peter Gingiss; and, Amy Halevy (telephone).

Also in attendance were the following persons: Cantor Mark Levine; Rhoda Goldberg; Larry Estes; Rabbi Ranon Teller; and, Louis Sokol.

The following items of business were addressed at the meeting:

1. Interim Plan and Special Meeting update.

Allan Goldstein explained his rationale to the Board for calling the Special Meeting. There were signors of Moshe Vardi's petition who were not Members in Good Standing, but Allan felt that a Special Meeting should be called to inform the Congregation. Allan strongly encouraged the Board to attend the Special Meeting at 7 pm on Monday, March 30th. Conversations with Vardi and others have been taking place to formulate a plan on how to proceed with the Special Meeting. Vardi appreciates the hard working Board. Allan does not feel there is any need for signors to apologize for having signed the Petition; Allan favors of an open and honest dialogue. Vardi and Allan were able to agree, as a community, we should try to carry out Rabbi's plan and vision; a definite duration, approximately 18 months, to test the plan and give it a chance to see if we like it and give us sufficient time to begin a search for a cantor if that is what we want to do. If we decide to keep the plan intact, the entire Congregation should vote upon that; and, an ad hoc committee should be formed to monitor and have ongoing evaluation process. They disagree as to when to have a vote to early terminate the plan. Allan believes that the committee should report to the Congregation at a Town Hall-style meeting.

Rabbi Teller commended Allan and Moshe for their efforts to work on.

(Guest) asked if the Cantor's leaving was a factor in prompting the 'sudden change', to which Rabbi Teller said that the timing of the end of Cantor Rhodes' contract was a factor. Financial considerations were also discussed.

Jeff Actor asked why we are having a dialogue.... Some people feel we have not communicated; others express distrust of the Board. Actor wants our focus on building trust. Actor does not want to see motions voted upon.

Peter Gingiss emphasized that we should demonstrate that we are listening.

Rubin asked if the motion(s) will be treated as seeking reversal of the prior Board decision.

Aaron Howard expressed frustration that the Board worked on the Rabbi's proposal for months, but understands Vardi's concern for the Constitutional process.

2. Community High School vote.

Allan Goldstein introduced Lisa Lowenstein who addressed, together with Cantor Levine, questions from the Board. Cantor Levine responded that the Beth Israel will house the finances. Jeff Actor asked about the role of a coordinator, who would be neutral and be employed part-time. Allan called for a vote: All in favor but one abstention.

3. Kitchen proposal update.

Karen Bernstein discussed the Motion to Adopt Kitchen Policy ("No Free Lunch") and presented a summary, followed by Board discussion. Milton Mosk and Marc Malacoff thanked Karen and her Committee for their hard work. Matter is being tabled to next meeting for a vote. Allan will notify Congregation that the Board will be considering a proposal with respect to the kitchen. Karen asked for the Board to return at the next meeting with specific questions.

4. Budget and Financial update.

Milton Mosk reviewed the proposed budget with the Board. Proposed budget does not include allocation for major building repairs. FAC wants to move away from having to rely upon our line of credit during lean months. Milton spoke about the "opportunity", fundraising plan for the next two years. Peter Gingiss moved, seconded by Marc Malacoff, to approve the proposed budget. Jeff Actor moved to amend the pending motion to reduce burden of fundraising to occur over two years. Sheldon Weisfeld feels that the Congregation needs to be better informed as to financial status of the shul.

5. Fund Development update.

Update subsumed by previous Budget and Financial Report by Milton Mosk. He and his Committee were thanked by the Board.

6. Membership update.

Net increase of membership, in spite of national trend downward.

7. Brith Shalom Proud

Moshe Even reported that the event will take place April 26th to complete tasks initiated during the first event..

Good and Welfare

Allan Goldstein thanked Michael Engelhart for organizing a March Madness bracket event

There is still time to sign up for the Shabbaton. Karen Bernstein complained that the website will not allow for teenagers. They are considered adults. Karen said there is room for only two adults. Larry Estes accurately pointed out that this is not Utah. Board laughed so hard that they made a motion...

Allan expressed congratulations to Karen Bernstein on her daughter's Bat Mitzvah.

Allan reminded the Board that April 28th is the event honoring Cantor Lance Rhodes and encourage everyone to attend.

Allan encouraged everyone to attend the Special Meeting on March 30th.

Jeff Actor moved, seconded by Peter Gingiss, that some of the Board's tzedakah be used for a muslim based organization that suffered a fire, in the amount of \$200.00. Discussion ensued. Interfaith Ministries initiated the charitable activity seeking 200 spiritual organizations be involved. Unanimously carried.

Larry thanked the Board for approving budget item that allowed to attend Executive Director conference in San Diego, CA, a report to follow.

Annual meeting is set for May 3, 2015.

Two weeks of work were donated by a flooring company, per Moshe Even.

Chili cookoff took place, UOS won, per Michael Engelhart.

Tzedakah collected \$42.00.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:01 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