

**C O N G R E G A T I O N**  

**Brith Shalom**  
 MEETING MINUTES- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date	November 19, 2015	Time	7:01 pm -8:14 pm
Staff	Rabbi Teller, Cantor Levine, Larry Estes	Guests	
In Attendance	Stephan Rubin, Lisa Lowenstein, Amy Halevy, Allan Goldstein, Sheldon Weisfeld, Steve Conoway, Dani Roisman, Jeffrey Actor, Iris Fisherman, Seth Lerner, Ellen Feisinger, Mitch Kreindler, Debi Mishael, Karen Bernstein(via phone),		
Next Meeting Date	Thursday, December 17, 2016		

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES		
No.	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Agenda	Meeting Agenda (Jeff)
2	Membership Report	Membership Analysis as of October 2015 (Larry)

<b>TZEDAKAH COLLECTED AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING</b>	<b>\$69.00</b>
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MEETING ACTION ITEMS			
No.	Action Item	Owner	Date
1	Send committee recommendations for gun policy prior to the next meeting	Stephan	Prior to 12/17
2	Summarize USCJ General Assembly impressions	Larry	
3	Contact Jeff if you have questions about Life & Legacy pledge letter	All board members who have not returned L&L	

- I. President's Welcome- Jeff chanted a bit of this morning's portion..."G-d was in this place and I did not know it." We should be mindful that the work we are doing is similar. We may not recognize at the time but we are doing holy work and G-d is in this place...
  - A. Minutes for approval (Oct meeting) Approved
  
- II. Financial Report
  - A. Report: New Member report: See attached report. 24 new families since August meeting, 10 resignations since July (all but one were because of moving or other life events. We are working well towards our goal of reaching 5% increase. The report breaks down the levels of giving and the number of new members with children. Our total number of households is 566. (366 of those count towards our cap)
  - B. Update: Cash flow and Refinancing (Amegy loan) status The loan has been signed with Amegy. This consolidated other loans and provided us with a \$125,000 line of credit. No pre-payment penalties. As of today we have drawn "0" on the line of credit. (Prior line of credit was \$300,000.)
  - C. Status: Houston Jewish Community Foundation – Life & Legacy: We have now collected 17! We would like to have 100% participation by the board to sign the "Letter of Intent." This opens the dialogue to discuss future giving. We have started solicitations from larger donors and it makes a powerful statement that the whole Board has committed.
  
- III. Old/New Business/Updates

## MEETING MINUTES- Board of Directors

- A. Update: Cantors Concert: Planning committee is busy and has broken down to sub-committees to effectively get the work done. One change, there will be a VIP reception, the event and then a meet-and-greet/reception afterwards. The tickets to the event are free but there are donor levels to support the event. Stephan encourages all board members to make sure they start thinking about their donation level. He also encourages us to talk to others. The donors will have access to the special events and special seats. A letter will go out next week with donor level explanations and tickets. Jeff made a recommendation that we, as a board contribute a combined total of \$10,000 to underwrite the free tickets. Jeff will guarantee that we will reach that goal. Larry commented that staff members have also contributed. Board members are thanked for their expertise and dedication. The total fundraising goal for this event is \$120,000. Suggested levels for the event are: \$360, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000
  - B. Update: Facilities and security: FPC has been meeting. They have been charged with the task of coming up with a policy about guns on the premises. The urgency coincides with the Open Carry Law that takes effect on Jan. 1. They have met with Asaf, head of the security company we use. They have met with both gun owners in the congregation as well as parents/others that are anti-guns on campus. We are not trying to hold a political debate but rather gather facts. Beth Israel has stated that they will be a gun-free zone and will be posting signs as such. We continue to gather information from the community and congregants. The only consensus seems to be that no one wants open carry. Now that Goldberg-Montessori is here, it is undeniable that we are a school facility. It is a felony to carry guns to a school grounds. There is some need for clarification. The policy will be sent out prior to the December board meeting because we will need to vote in December and have policy in place by Jan. 1. (The Roisman's will pay for signage to be made in advance.)
  - C. Report: General Assembly of Kehillot; USCJ (11/15/15) Larry reported about the USCJ conference in Illinois. He and Milton attended. 121 different sessions throughout the conference...from early morning to late in the day. Rabbis, Educators, Cantors, Lay leaders, Staff from all over were present. There was a lot of talk about the smaller congregations struggling and the feeling was that it will happen down the line to larger congregations. That said, Congregation Brith Shalom is unusual in many ways. We are growing and are gathering young families where many synagogues are aging. Many synagogues rely upon large endowments to make their funds. Larry will send more information and will share some of the things he learned. He mentioned some financial models such as lifetime memberships, reduced tuition for multiple children in one family, Israel trips etc.
  - D. New Item: Contracts- Amy reported about the renewal contracts for David Kron 4/1/16-6/30/17 The new contracts will be very similar to the prior contract with some modification since a benefactor event will not be held this next year. If the interim plan is modified, this will still allow for a new cantor to begin in July of 2017. It would take time for evaluation of the current plan and then conduct a search. Concerning Cantor Levine's contract An addendum was added to his current contract 4/1/15-6/30/16 with additional clergy duties and compensation.
  - E. Committee reports – Iris mentioned that there was limited support for the last Adult Education programs. There was some conflicting events but she wanted to mention that there was not enough attendance. Ellen said she will add this as an agenda item for the Education Committee.
  - F. Info: Facilities – there was a gas leak outside the building this week. The Montessori school and building was closed for safety sake.
  - G. Hanukkah Bazaar Is this Sunday and Lisa encourages all to attend.
  - H. Mitzvah Day is December 6
  - I. Hanukkah Dance sponsored by the Men's Club. Saturday, December 12
- IV. Good and Welfare – Adjournment
- A. New Tzedakah Box – Evens and Goodmans had it built for the synagogue. It will be formally dedicated during Mitzvah Day.
  - B. Diversity outreach – Nostra Aetate Discussion with St. Theresa Catholic Church went very well
  - C. Shabbos services, 10/31/15. Waters vs shul. Food donation wins! Ronald McDonald House
  - D. Kvelling from little Milty.....Now kvelling from Jake! Mazel Tov to the Teller family!
  - E. Holocaust Museum Houston Guardian of the Human Spirit Luncheon – Levines (Golbergs co-chair)
  - F. Book Fair – Elli Samuels and Eve Lapin co-chairs
  - G. May 1 is Yom HaShoah at Brith Shalom this year. Add it to your calendar now please.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.