

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: November 20, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Allan Goldstein, President, at approximately 7:05 pm.

The following persons were present:

Allan Goldstein; Stephan Rubin; Jeff Actor; Grant Caplan; Moshe Even; Marc Malacoff; Leah Wolfthal; Steve Conaway; Mitch Kreindler; Denise Mosk; Tom Samuels; Mitch Kreindler; Amy Halevy; Michael Englehart; Karen Bernstein (via telephone conf.), and Milton Mosk.

Also in attendance were the following persons: Karen Lukin; Leonard Goldstein; Rhoda Goldberg; Larry Estes and, Rabbi Teller.

The following items of business were addressed at the meeting:

1. Strategic Vision update and moving forward.

Allan Goldstein reported that he received feedback from letter he sent to Congregation, mostly positive.

Jeff, Karen and Allan met with Cantor Levine to discuss his role under new system. Allan feels letter should have emphasized interim or temporary basis. Allan says we do intend to organize a search committee to discuss future plans.

Rabbi Teller reviewed essential elements of Strategic Vision.

Moshe Even asked whether we did enough to keep Rhodes. Goldstein and Mosk addressed his inquiry, saying that everything that could reasonably be done was, in fact, done.

Aaron Howard expressed concern that some Congregants will miss having Cantor Rhodes (or a cantor) leading services and may not wish to continue membership under new Vision. Board discussion ensued.

Allan wants Board to set a deadline for process so that we can set up committee to evaluate and make recommendations per Constitution. Board discussion ensued.

Jeff Actor proposed that Board re-evaluate the merits and progress of the Strategic Vision and its implementation during the next year.

Rabbi proposed that we begin the evaluation process immediately to set goals and criteria to objectively measure success or failure.

Allan Goldstein proposed we form an ad hoc committee to establish criteria for evaluating implementation and progress of Strategic Vision and report April 1, 2015. Aaron Howard moved, but no second.

Allan discussed budgetary issues raised by implementing Strategic Vision. Tabled for Personnel Committee to address and make recommendations.

2. 10th Anniversary Celebration

Per Rhoda Goldberg, Gerald Teller will be our guest Scholar-in-Residence and speak during Torah service and will be speaking after luncheon. Evening program will consist of cocktail /Havdalah, with concert featuring David Krone, with video presentation by Stephan Rubin.

Board members to contact Congregants to invite / promote attendance and support of the event. Effort will help build connections and promote membership engagement/involvement.

Aaron Howard spoke about his feelings concerning what he perceived as the cost of the Saturday evening event. Rhoda responded by pointing out that the Saturday luncheon is an event that congregants who do not feel able or obliged to attend Saturday evening can attend and support.

Rabbi Teller spoke about the “Musaf davening team” which will highlight the strategic Vision changes.

3. Endowment gift.

Larry Estes spoke about a \$125,000 gift, with proposal to match up to \$125,000, all toward Endowment.

4. Financial Report and Membership update.

Four months into fiscal year, per Tom Samuels. We are slightly ahead on annual giving and well ahead on High Holiday appeal. Year end, \$95k projected shortfall, despite fundraising efforts. We would tap credit limit of \$300k, with large deficits still projected in the future.

Larry Estes said we have raised \$25k to date, with another \$50k underwriting.

Membership has increased net 35 new members. 23 are under age 30. 5 have joined at sustaining membership level. 12 have resigned due to relocation or passed.

5. Budget Deficit Commission update

Leah Wolfthal gave update. Efforts to hire Membership Director not successful yet. Renewed efforts via telephone to collect overdue amounts proposed. Fund Development committee be reconstituted after 10th Anniversary event.

5. Committee Resignations.

Enhancement Committee experienced two resignations: Haya Varon and Mort Levy Proofreading Committee also experienced loss of long standing membership; Renee Stern and Paula Baker. Jeff Actor proposed we conduct exit interviews. Board expressed sincere thanks for their efforts and contributions.

6. CBS Proud

Moshe Even and Larry Estes have been working on improvements and repairs. We will be providing opportunities for Congregants to volunteer, working with Cantor Levine.

7. ADL Issues with Rev. Ed Young.

Letter sent to Rev. Young, who met with ADL and Rabbis, who responded by taking down his offensive language.

8. Executive Summary by Staff.

Executive summary to be published in E-bulletin.

9. Cancer Awareness Program -BRCA Awareness

Belinda Denn and Janice Rubin to host a free reception sponsored by Scott Davis to promote Breast Cancer Awareness regarding a gene that makes you predisposed to cancer. Program to take place at UOS on March 25, 2015. CBS asked to sponsor and promote attendance. Board unanimously approved motion by Mitch Kreindler that we participate as requested.

10. CBS volunteer recognition

Bar Mitzvah tutors and readers will be honored this weekend.

11. Mitzvah Day.

Rebuilding Houston Together promoted by Mitch Kreindler.

Jeff Actor solicited a wheel barrow; Allan and Rubin to provide on Sunday.

Denise Mosk spoke about \$20 identification bracelet.

12. CBS invited to participate in Legacy, which will help raise \$12k towards endowment. Larry Estes will attend; Board members are encourage to attend.

13. RPC suggestion for change of time for Erev Rosh Hashana service.

Steven Conaway discussed proposed change to 6:15 pm.

Good and Welfare

JCC Bookfair hosted by

Marc Malacoff expressed thanks to Karen Bernstein on her Kitchen efforts, also expressed thanks to Men's Club breakfast speaker regarding AIPAC.

Rabbi Teller reported AIPAC trip in March, 2015.

Larry Estes expressed his thanks for the Board support for his loss of father.

Michael Engelhart reported next Men's Club Breakfast will have David Stern of Astros staff (Moneyball) will be guest speaker on December 14, 2014.

14. New Business:None

Tzedakah collected \$110.60.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:06 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