

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 17, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Allan Goldstein, President, at approximately 7:00 pm..

The following persons were present:

Allan Goldstein; Stephan Rubin; David Lewis; Karen Lukin; Sherri Taxman; Leah Wolfthal; Peter Gingiss; Karen Bernstein; Grant Caplan; Sheldon Weisfeld; Henry Jakob; Mitch Kreindler; David Lewis; and, Amy Halevy.

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

Guest, Mark Katzenellenbogen, also attended the meeting.

Allan Goldstein discussed the importance of prayer and encouraged each Board member to write their own. He presented his own prayer to the Board.

The following items of business were addressed at the meeting:

1. Interfaith Ministries (Elliot)

Allan Goldstein advised the Board regarding Interfaith Ministries' capital campaign and request for CBS to participate by making a financial contribution. IM was seeking a suggested payment of \$5,000 payable over 5 years) which will allow CBS active sponsorship and participation in the IM seminal event as a leader. Amy Halevy moved the Board that CBS formally participate and make a donation. Seconded by Sheldon Weisfeld. Discussion ensued. Mitch Kreindler suggested that the Board contribute and also, solicit some additional funds from outside sources. Leah Wolfthal said she was in favor of the idea but did not want to do solicitation outside of the Board. Rule regarding tabling non-emergency motions suspended by unanimous vote. Question called. All, but Stephan Rubin, who abstained, voted FOR the motion. Board agreed to engage in fuller discussion of practical aspects at next meeting.

2. High Holiday feedback

Rabbi reported that he received many "thank you" notes from attendees.

Allan Goldstein heard that some attendees did not like the "out of control" line during Ne'illah service.

Aaron Howard heard that the choir never sounded better, credit to choir director. Liked Rabbi's sermon's; Lance's voice was on spot.

Grant Caplan said he had an emotional experience.

3. Reports

3.1. Friday Night Ruach (David, Leah and/or Karen)

David Lewis reported that there has been a lot of cooking and preparation of the Ruach meal for this week. Great response to the request for volunteers, with at least 15 persons saying they would cook, clean up and contribute. Tomorrow night's Ruach is sponsored by Lewis' and Steins. Leah Wolfthal spoke about how the Ruach meals would be organized with a view to the future. Leah also expressed concern that the Board was not advised that the ruach meal costs was eliminated from the budget.

Allan Goldstein praised the leaders for creating a great working model, a kehillah within a kehillah.

3.2. Financial (Larry)

Larry presented the financial picture as to this year's budget, together with a 5 year forecast.

3.3. Endowment update

Allan reported that efforts are being made to obtain significant contributions by the Endowment Committee. Also, increase membership and annual giving.

3.4. Young Professionals focus group (Leah)

Leah Wolfthal reported that mid 20s-mid 40's plan a focus group meeting is being planned to cultivate the next generation's leadership and/or commitment to CBS.

3.5. Houston Jewish Community collaboration efforts

Allan heard speaker at Jewish Federation as part of an effort to encourage collaboration between community components with a view towards benefitting the large community.

3.6. Membership snapshot

Analysis presented to the Board by Allan Goldstein.

Henry Jakob (and others) appreciated the presentation and encourage future disclosure to the Board.

3.7 USCJ Conference (see attached summary from the JTA on the Centennial)

Conservative Judaism, the Pew study and the future of synagogue life and Brith Shalom (please try to review the Pew study or at least the summary)

Summary

<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey/>

Full report

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/10/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey-fullreport.pdf>

Allan Goldstein attended the Conference and learned much and brought back ideas and help. He also discussed the Pew study. Allan discussed book authored by Joel Chasnoff, with special emphasis on his definition of Conservative Judaism. Allan asked Board to discuss what does the term mean for the Board members. Discussion ensued. Interest in how we reach inter-marriage given focus. Allan asked that the Board consider new innovative programs that strengthen involvement of the entire congregation, how do we touch. Second, how do we get new members. Need forward thinking. Life cycle events are critical times we can touch each other. All Board members are encouraged to write personal notes of gratitude and to acknowledge life cycle events. Instead of notifying there is a yartzheit where we essentially ask for a donation, what else can we do to encourage active involvement?

3.8. Southwest Kehillot Shabbaton

Still time to RSVP. Even takes place May 2-4, 2014.

3.9. Volunteer teams needed to partner with staff

3.10. Safrai Gallery

Larry reported as to how the event will be put together. Need a volunteer to run ad hoc committee to do the event

3.11. Assist updating web site and Facebook

3.12 Community Shabbat /Veterans Appreciation is scheduled for November 9, 2013. Great programming associated with the weekend, culminating with a parade and ceremony.

Volunteer Shabbat is being planned for November 16, 2013.

3.13 Mitzvah Day Update:

Site Captains - six new site captains. Neal Rosen, Sue Resnick , David Pomerantz Laura Kay, Rosalie Berg, and Debbie Chandler. Ronald McDonald House breakfast still needs a site captain. Debbie Mishael will be doing arts and crafts for another program other than Meals on Wheels. Stephan Rubin conducted last meeting. December 20/21 weekend would be great to celebrate and honor efforts of Mitzvah Day volunteers and programs.

4. Todah for your High Holiday calls
5. Good and welfare

Allan Goldstein thanked everyone who made their High Holiday phone calls.

Stephan Rubin discussed City of Houston Mayoral Debate this Sunday @ 1:00 pm

David Lewis advised the Board that a grant application was denied. Very few grants were given out. Continuing efforts are being made to upgrade facility.

Rabbi encouraged attendance at upcoming Friday Night Ruach and classes being presented.

6. Tzedakah: the sum of \$48.00 was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan Rubin,
Secretary

Prayer for the Strength and Beauty of Memory

Ribono Shel Olam help us to remember the bonds
That tie us together as a community and
Of those whose memories are for us a blessing

Bless us Adonai with the strength to recall
All the wonderful attributes of those who came before us
Who taught us to care for those who cannot care for themselves
Who taught us to treasure the bonds of family and community
Who taught us forgiveness when we stumble
Who taught us forgiveness and charity when
we and others are forgetful of the righteous paths to follow

May we find the strength to act in ways worthy
Of your teachings and those of our teachers and parents
Who showered us with support and humility

As we strive to build a holy community let us gather strength
To act in ways worthy of the beauty of the memory of our loved ones