

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: September 18, 2014

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

The following persons were present:

Allan Goldstein; Stephan Rubin; Jeff Actor; Moshe Even; Marc Malacoff; Leah Wolfthal; Steve Conaway; Peter Gingiss; Mitch Kreindler; Karen Bernstein; Tom Samuels.

Also in attendance were the following persons: Leonard Goldstein; and, Rabbi Teller.

The meeting began with Rabbi Teller leading the Board in prayer.

The following items of business were addressed at the meeting:

1. Strategic Vision Letter

Allan Goldstein discussed a draft of a letter he wants to send to the Congregation. Discussion ensued regarding content, including disclosure regarding Cantor Rhodes' status. Allan will select three Board Members to further revise the draft, with anticipated delivery after High Holidays.

2. Fundraising/Fund Development

Jeff Actor reported that Fund Development Committee met and discussed Wolfthal Commission report recommendations. Decision to re-populate FDC. Agreement was reached to coordinate fundraising efforts for benefit of shul. Committee focused effort on 10th anniversary planning. Auxiliaries, such as Sisterhood and Men's Club, to organize and facilitate Directory Ad solicitations. Allan pointed out that there exists a tension as to who gets raised funds and how the funds will be used, such as operating expenses vs. endowment.

Allan reported that Larry Katz is raising funds for medical expenses / rehab costs for Patsy Sklar, who recently was involved in a serious accident.

3. Membership/ Engagement Program Coordinator Update

Rabbi Teller said the job has been posted on Job search sites and interviews will start soon.

Allan reported that we have two new staff members, Arielle Kowenski, Program Director. We also have a new receptionist.

4. High Holidays

Peter Gingiss discussed Usher Training that occurred last Sunday. Arielle assisted in the presentation, including work preparing a do's and don't's handout for ushers. Hollis Hendrickson needs more ushers.

Moshe Even informed the Board regarding signage for emergency aid /direction, subject to review by Mort Levy. Grounds are being improved in preparation for High Holidays.

Marc Malacoff raised security questions for High Holidays. Specifically, showing identification and wand by security guards. Discussion ensued. Identification will be required. Security has discretion to wand as they deem necessary.

Larry Estes is out, attending his father's funeral, and designated Cherye-Ann to serve in his stead while out of town.

Mitch Kreindler, supported by Jeff Actor, suggested we not cull out members who have dues arrears for shaming /embarrassment at entry to services. Conclusion was that we don't really segregate those persons at point of entry anyway.

5. Facilities and Enhancement update

Marc Malacoff thanked Moshe Even, Karen Bernstein and Peter Gingiss for their efforts in readying the shul for High Holidays. Wants Board members to organize one Sunday per month to take on projects to improve shul appearance. CBS Proud - wants Board members to model behaviors. Suggestions will be encouraged.

Karen Bernstein reported on kitchen. She has been investigating what other shuls do with their kitchen, interviewed Rabbi and Larry Estes, and has begun an outline of what we should do operationally.

6. Religious School

Mitch Kreindler reported our student numbers are down, but should correct over time. Cantor Mark Levine is doing a great job. B'nai Mitzvah program changes - tutors lack centralized organization. We now have Cantor Dorf serving as tutor for the program

7. Budget/Membership updates

Tom Samuels advised the Board regarding financial status of shul, with emphasis on deficit reduction issues.

Allan reviewed the Membership Report / Analysis. Young people are joining because of our Young Professional group!

8. Good and Welfare

Rabbi reported that children's programming for HH will utilize church outside space next door.

Allan asked the Board to suggest someone to address Young Family programming.

Jeff Actor suggested that we, as a Board, provide a meal for Estes family during shiva.

Peter Gingiss wished Marc Malacoff a happy birthday, and the Board sang "Happy Birthday" without payment of royalties.

Rabbi spoke about upcoming Selichot programming.

9. New Business:None

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:41 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