

Congregation Brith Shalom Board Meeting  
Minutes  
December 20, 2012

CBS President Milton Mosk, III called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present: Milton Mosk, III, Allan Goldstein, Karen Lukin, Gregg Sheena, Rhoda Goldberg, Mitch Kreindler, Paula Botticelli, Lisa Estes, Peter Gingiss, Chuck Koller, David Lewis, Marc Malacoff, Maxine Goodman, Laurie Silverblatt, Cantor Lance Rhodes, and Larry Estes.

**Financial Report**

As of November 30 expenses are on track. The shortfall in revenue is a timing issue involving when larger donors will pay. This is not of concern.

\$12,000 less of Year of the Torah Funds will need to be used to balance the budget.

More funds than expected have been collected for the Building Fund.

More details are in the attached agenda.

As of May 2013 CBS will switch to a new electricity provider. This will result in an annual savings of \$1,800.

**Old Business**

The following motion was brought back up for discussion and a vote:

Move that Congregation Brith Shalom Board approve and support a pilot project with Shalom Cypress, a cohort of Jewish families in Cypress, Tx seeking to develop a Jewish educational program. Further to allocate \$1,500 of in kind funding to this project. There will be periodic reporting of the pilot program's progress. By the end of the pilot period a recommendation will be considered by the Board determining the future direction and relationship with Shalom Cypress.

There was discussion concerning the time commitment for this project. Cantor Levine has found a teacher to conduct classes. He has set up a schedule of 30 minutes per week to speak with the Shalom Cypress members to discuss concerns and answer questions.

The funding for this project is:

\$4,000 – Shalom Cypress members

\$3,000-USCJ

\$1,500- CBS (in-kind)

The pilot program will run from January through May and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. A report will be made to the CBS Board after six months.

Shalom Cypress will be asked to write a vision statement for next year.

The motion passed with two abstentions.

## **President's Report**

Karen Lukin, Chair of the Governance Committee and Milton presents the proposed changes. The proposed changes to the CBS Constitution were discussed. (Attached is a document that outlines the proposed changes.)

Town hall meetings will be scheduled to inform the Congregation about the proposed changes and to get feedback. The Board will vote in April on the changes and the changes will be brought up for a vote by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in May.

Milton spoke about the need to have a Constitution that defined the principles of Brith Shalom and a set of bylaws for the administration of CBS. The bylaws could be altered by the Board without amending the Constitution.

There was discussion about how a smaller Board would result in fewer congregants having a stake in the running the synagogue and also that this has traditionally been a way to identify future leaders. The committee system has not been as dynamic as in the past since there has been more staff involvement.

The difficulty of getting people to serve on the Board was also discussed.

Eliminating the position of Treasurer is being proposed because staff now handles much of that responsibility. It is being proposed that one of the Vice President be assigned to work with the Financial Vice President.

The Fund Development Committee and the Campaign Cabinet are essentially the same. There is a need for this Committee to also look strategically at fund development. There is a need to determine how other fundraising efforts will affect the larger Endowment Campaign. Should the Chair be on the EC?

Should the bylaws changes be ready to present at the Annual meeting? Should there be more congregational meetings during the year?

The Board needs to know in advance that these issues will be discussed.

## **Campaign Update**

There was a parlor meeting at the home of Maxine and Steve Goodman. Rabbi Teller spoke about why his family contributed – that the Synagogue is important to Judaism and that we are building for the future. Ron Moses spoke about the long term financial future of CBS.

Two families that attended made commitments that evening.

The next parlor meeting will be held at the home of Karen and Seth Lerner on January 13.

## **Upcoming Events**

Sisterhood Shabbat, co chaired by Denise Mosk and Traci Jakob, will be held on January 25-26.

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler will present on three part program on Texas Jewish History. This program, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee, will be held on Wednesday evenings, January 9, 16, and 23.

A community wide food summit will be held at CBS on Sunday, January 27.

A forest of trees is being planted in memory of Ethan Ponzer, a victim of the Newtown, Connecticut shooting.

The CBS Board provided dinner for the shiva of Elena Dinkin's mother. Joel is a CBS Board member.

Mitzvah Day was a great success. Congratulations to Mitzvah Day Chair David Lewis.

David Lewis will speak to Men's Club about the geology of Israel.

Laurie Silverblatt mentioned that there is still time to donate recipes or be a donor for the Sisterhood cookbook.

Elli Samuels has published a cookbook, *Cooking with Elli*.

Karen Lukin attended the USCJ Conference. Many of the changes that USCJ will institute came about because synagogues, like CBS, questioned the policies and vision of USCJ.

#### **Good and Welfare**

Thank you to Marc Malacoff for putting together the CBS directory.

Zoe Caplan wrote and drew a thank you note to the Board saying "I love Shabatte (sic) and all of you.

\$43.00 in tzedakah was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda L. Goldberg  
Secretary