

# Congregation Brith Shalom Board Meeting

## Minutes

October 18, 2012

CBS President Milton Mosk, III called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Milton Mosk, Jeffrey Actor, Karen Lukin, Martin Kay, Gregg Sheena, Rhoda Goldberg, Grant Caplan, Steve Conaway, Peter Gingiss, David Lewis, Marc Malacoff, Tom Samuels, Sheldon Weisfeld, Leah Wolfthal, Maxine Goodman, Dave Marbin, Laurie Silverblatt, Rabbi Ranon Teller, Cantor Lance Rhodes, Cantor Mark Levine, and Larry Estes, Executive Director. Visitor-Mark Katzenellebogen

### **Governance Team Report**

Karen Lukin, Chair of the Governance Team, thanked Peter Gingiss, chair of last year's Governance Team, for the work he and his team did to begin the process.

The goal of the Team is to recommend to the membership changes that will improve the operations of Congregation Brith Shalom. The Board will receive the recommendations before a Board meeting that will be devoted to this topic. There will be a town hall meeting to discuss these changes with congregants

and a meeting of the membership will be held to vote on proposed changes before the Annual Meeting.

Proposed changes:

Remove minutiae from the CBS Constitution

Develop a Policy manual

Place mention of the Executive Director in the Policy Manual

Change what are considered Standing Committees and develop teams for other tasks.

Decrease the size of the Board from 34 to 17-18

The annual budget would be voted on by the Board and would pass unless voted down at an Annual Meeting

Look at how to better define a quorum

Send any suggestions to Karen.

## **President's Report**

Various Board Members spoke about the success of High Holiday services. The rabbi's sermons were well received and the Cantor, the new choir director and the Choir added greatly to the feeling of the services.

Suggestions for next year:

More head sets for the hearing impaired

More machzorim- 650 were purchased two years ago. 350 (@\$30.00) are needed.

Better signage

Yom Kippur Appeal envelopes for guests

## **Campaign Report**

Larry Estes reported on the Capital Campaign. A new cabinet has been established that includes Allan Goldstein, Maxine Goodman, Amy Halevy, Henry Jacob, Seth Lerner, Ron Moses, Denise Mosk, Milton Mosk, III, Tom Samuels, and Leah Wolfthal.

The goal is to approach 60 members in six weeks. Each of the cabinet members will speak with two members before the end of the year. Please send Milton the names of two members that the campaign can contact. Board member involvement in this solicitation will vary with the members.

There will also be a series of 3 parlor meetings to help introduce the Campaign to members. These will be held at the homes of Lisa and Larry Estes, Maxine and Steve Goodman and

Denise and Milton Mosk, III. Rabbi Teller, Cantor Rhodes, Cantor Levine and Larry will make presentations at these meetings to explain the Campaign's purpose and the vision for the future.

Three major givers will be approached by Milton, Maxine and Larry. We are looking at requesting funds over a five year period to help avoid a deficit, an endowment for the Religious School and a legacy request from the third family.

Roberta Herman, Executive Director of the Houston Jewish Community Fund, will present another program on legacy giving for members.

It is important that all Board members make a commitment to the Campaign. Without Board investment in the Campaign, it will not be successful.

The Ebro family has made an endowment gift in memory of Gus Levy that will fund the end of year Religious School program on an annual basis.

## **Board Retreat**

Milton reviewed the outcomes of the retreat. Board members will be divided into four groups- Campaign, Membership Engagement, Marketing and Messaging (attracting new members) and Strategic Planning for the Building.

By October 26 teams should be in contact by email. Teams need to choose a chair and identify three goals. Please send this information to Milton by October 26. Teams will meet during the November board meeting and will have time to report back to the entire Board.

Karen Lukin will represent Brith Shalom at the USCJ meeting that will be held in Las Vegas in December.

There is now a Board page on the CBS website. Please let Larry know if anything should be added. It will have minutes, proposals, etc.

## **Financial Report**

The attached agenda gives the financial details. As of September 30 we are 11.6% below our revenue target. By the end of the year we are forecast to have a \$19,000 deficit.

Members have been paying the building assessment at a better than expected rate. Jeff Actor asked if after the three year

assessment, we should consider continuing it for another 3 years and placing these funds in an endowment fund.

Martin Kay said that to insure long term s financial stability we need to attract more members.

Old Business-None

New Business-None

### **Adjournment, Announcements and Good and Welfare**

A Community Shabbat will be held on November 10 and will feature Neshama Yoga, a family service, storytelling, Israeli dancing and a traditional service.

Mitzvah Day will be held on Sunday, December 9. Sign up on the website to participate.

That evening is the first night of Chanukah and there will be candle lighting and latke dinner sponsored by Sisterhood.

The entire congregation will be asked to help build a menorah from legos that will be used in the coming years to celebrate Chanukah.

Laurie Silverblatt reported that Sisterhood is sponsoring the JCC Book Fair program featuring Francesca Segal, author of *The Innocents*, on November 1.

Sisterhood is also sponsoring the Iron Chef for Young Professionals on November 11

The CBS Bazaar will be held on Sunday, November 18, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. There will be a Mah Jong tournament that day from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm.

Dave Marbin reported that Men's Club will be in charge of the Mitzvah day cleanup. Men's Club is planning a Lag B'Omer picnic for the Congregation.

On Friday evening, December 14, there will be a Chanukah program featuring the choir.

The JCC Book and Arts Fair will take place from October 28 through November 11.

Larry Laufman will be teaching an Adult Education class on the Akedah.

Marc Malacoff complimented Cantor Levine on the Religious School program at CBS.

Rabbi Teller conducted a Shiva minyan in Sugarland and said many of those who attended the minyan were interested in CBS.

The efforts of Marc Malacoff and George Engelhart have resulted in a new 2012-2013 Membership Directory. They raised \$30,000 in donations and the Directory honors Sisterhood. Thanks to Marc and George for making this project such a success.

\$37.00 in tzedakah was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhoda L. Goldberg

Secretary

