

CBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 22, 2018

I. Welcoming remarks from President: Stephen Rubin

- Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Stephan Rubin (SR)

II. D'var- Rabbi Ranon Teller

- Rabbi Teller delivered d'var torah about storytelling

III. Approval of Minutes- Ellen Fiesinger

- No minutes approval, per SR, Ellen is absent

IV. Reports and Updates

A. Clergy updates

1. Rabbi Teller:

- Bar/Bat mitzvah energy good, program is good
- This weekend triplets b'nai mitzvah
- Visit with kehillah high seniors, impressed with their engagement, hosting graduation in May, we have the largest class of the 3 synagogues
- Sunday, April 1st, Passover festival day, invited to Beth Yeshurun to join services
- AIPAC

2. Cantor Mark Levine:

- Erin Lepselter will be taking over Anna Blum's role, will now need program director- 2 candidates
- Mishloach Manot review- proposed process to make easier
- Benefactor invite to April 29th event at the Zilka's home- David Crohn will be singing in their backyard

B. Financial Vice President's Report- Elliot Gershenson- 10"

1. Financial Affairs Committee:

a. Cash Flow Statement:

- Cash flow is bad, will borrow money again
- Endowment fund incorrect- the #should be different, could not understand what correct number was
- Paid endowment back that we borrowed

- There is a problem with auto withdrawal, may be affecting cash flow
 - b. Collections- Super Sunday/April 8th
 - 1-5:00, the board should come
 - We need to collect cash or we will go into a deficit
 - Rabbi Teller asked what projections are for surplus, Amir Halevy said that the only reason we have surplus is because of Yom Kippur appeal
 - c. Annual Giving Increase- FAC approved 3%
 - no action needed, just notifying
 - From Elliot Gershenson: no hopeful budgets, real budgets- even if it is not balanced; we will need to fill in \$150-200,00
2. Fund Development Committee
- a. Membership Directory
 - new one next year, will bring in money
 - b. YK Appeal
 - was always \$50,000 in past, this past year we raised it to \$300,000- how do we do this again?
 - Met with 1 family, asked for \$100,000- our goal before meeting in May will be to have YK appeal
 - c. Kiddush Luncheon
 - need to change the culture, get more people to sponsor
 - 1 main sponsor, 10 co-sponsors
 - EG wants board to sponsor kiddushes, create movement and momentum
 - d. CMEL 10th Anniversary
 - goal to raise net \$50,000, CML wants more effort to fundraise, less effort towards the dinner
 - e. Endowment Fund
 - tabling this topic for later

- *NOTE: With all of the above, hopefully will have a surplus and hence a new reality*

C. Standing Committees updates

1. Religious Practices Committee- updates- **Dani Roisman** (report)
 - Dani absent, proposal given to board RE: HH ticket change
 - tabling until next time per SR- RPC worked hard, wants to be warm and welcoming
2. Education Council - update- **Cantor Mark Levine/Ellen Fiesinger** (report)**
 - EF not here
 - CML- no action, nothing to report
3. Facilities Planning Committee - **Ken Podell** (report)
 - 1. Problems with H2O bill- maybe a leak, working with city to reduce bill- 10x higher than normal, maybe problem with the toilets?
 - 2. Freezer died, need new one
 - 3. Fred and Velva Levine provided funding to make bathroom doors in foyer electronic, got quotes, Blake working on install
4. Membership Committee - **Sara Norris** (report)
 - New member brunch last Sunday, was small

D. Auxiliaries/Other Committees*

1. Men's Club - **Morris Narunsky** (report)
 - MN passed a calendar out
2. Sisterhood - **Dori Wind / Denise Mosk** (report)
 - no one present to report, last event was cooking presentation by Alan Levine
 - Torah Fund April 22nd, honoring Denise Mosk
3. Hazak
 - no one present to report
 - Hazak got grant from HJCF

4. Young Professionals
 - nothing to report

V. Old Business

A. Staffing Update- {*Stephan Rubin requested update earlier in meeting, after Fund Development Committee update by EG}

1. Executive Director search - update- **Elliot Gershonson**
 - had Nikki visit, was consensus that he was not the right person by search committee, looking at other alternatives
 - EG thanked the people who engaged in this process
2. Religious School Professional Search - **Cantor Mark Levine / Ellen Fiesinger****
 - See above under CML's update at beginning of meeting
3. Programming Director

VI. New Business

A. Legacy Update- Need a Volunteer to Represent CBS -**Stephan Rubin**

- **Jeff Actor**- Gave passionate report on this topic: Legacy gifts must be at forefront of people's thoughts. This is the 3rd year that Jewish Org. is participating in Greenspoon Foundation- HCJF. He wants congregants to put Brith Shalom in their will, we have > 50 people in the program, extended 3rd year portion of program because of Harvey Flood.
- This portion entails: 1. people leaving BS in their estate, 2. Follow up with individuals to confirm gifts, and people will sign letter of intent
- Now we must confirm people- if we confirm 5 people, we get \$3,000
- Date for next set of goals in October
- Group of individuals is needed to push for this
- Needs to confirm value, but May be \$335,000 in potential future gifts

- Questions?
- Requested board of trustees participation- Needs 2 layleaders, 1 or 2 clergy (END OF JE speaking)
- **RT:** Benefit of Greenspoon Program is training
- **SR:** Requested 2 volunteers to be leaders. No one Volunteered.

B. SOAP Reports - **Stephan Rubin**

- Next time - Will need volunteers

VII. Good and Welfare

A. Brith Shalom Family news

- CML is leaving town for his Birthday
- Board sang “Happy Birthday” to him
- EG offered to sponsor for his lunch
- SR’s daughter’s birthday is this weekend
- EF arrived and Thanked Erin Wright for taking minutes

B. Houston Jewish Community news

C. Special Messages

VIII. Tzedakah Collected: \$35

IX. Closing

- Rhoda Goldberg motions to adjourn meeting, Ken Podell
2nd- 7:58 p.m.

** = Reports should be submitted in writing to be presented to the Board of Trustees at the meeting unless an oral presentation is necessary to support a request (motion, resolution, etc..) for the Board to take some particular action.*

REMINDER: Next Board Meeting: April 19, 2018 @ 7:00 pm.