



Minutes of the February 12, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: Debi Brenner, Seth Charatz, Leslie Crane, Gerald Gamm, Elyse Gilman, Abraham Glazer, Daniel Glowinsky, Howard Goldberg, Daniel Goldstein, Scott Green, Marc Haas, Amy Libenson, Jill Liberman, Lisa Maas-Vangellow, Merle Markus, Lisa Pelta, Martin Presberg, Sara Ressler, Susan Rothenberg, Matthew Ryen, Aviva Schochat, Brett Shulman, Lisa Silverstein, Todd Stein, Tammi Steinberg, Jeff Stolberg, Lisa Tellem

Excused: Bruce Green, Paulina Kovalsky, Emily Krohn, Deborah Zeger

Staff: Rabbi Leonardo Bitran,

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM.

D'var Torah

Rabbi Bitran delivered the D'var Torah. He spoke about the TBE group leaving for Israel this week and celebrating 2 B'not Mitzvot on Masada. This week's Parsha is about the building of the Mishkan (The Tabernacle). The Parsha provides in-depth details regarding the building of the Mishkan. Rabbi Bitran shared the Parsha says that G-d's presence is not in the Mishkan, but in all of us.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2017 Board Meeting was made by Merle Markus. Scott Green seconded the motion.

Corrections: none

Motion passed.

Ritual Committee Report & Discussion

Ellen Comisar gave a report on our very active and involved Ritual Committee. The biggest recent change was moving into the triennial cycle. Adjustments needed to be made initially, but services are now running smoothly. The

committee will continue to share with the clergy any additional recommended adjustments or changes.

There is an ongoing need more Torah readers and Ellen introduced some ideas for recruiting readers:

- Work with the religious school to engage teens.
- The ritual committee will continue to actively recruit new readers.
- Encouraged the board members to consider being a reader.
- Reinforced that the shorter portions are easier to learn.
- The Ritual Committee and others will happily provide training
- There are opportunities to read at morning minyan also.
- There are several APPS that can help with learning portions.

Ellen also discussed the issue with visitors to TBE who may have different traditions and it is important we communicate to everyone what is expected when one is called up to the Bimah for an honor, but to also be flexible and accepting of the traditions of others.

One idea would be to prepare handouts to give to families of B'nai Mitzvot that spells out what participants and guests can expect from our service.

Other items the committee is working on:

- Creating a quilt to use over the coffin at funerals.
- Same sex wedding ceremony.
- In addition to the High Holydays discussions on how to enhance festival services.
- Work with Debbie Zeger over the summer to assign High Holyday Aliyot. TBE will continue to publicize that congregants can call the office to ask for an honor.

Rabbi Bitran reiterated that we want to have a vibrant experience at TBE on Friday and Saturday. While there are TBE standards we will accommodate and respect other traditions.

Finance Report

Marc Haas gave the finance report. The report to date looks good for the first 6 months of the year:

- The Farash grant money came in providing \$180,000 in unrestricted
 - Thank you Farash Foundation!
- While the High Holyday appeal is a little lower, there is an excellent increase in The Pillar Society.
- Many members prepaid their dues because of the new tax laws.

- We currently have a \$290,000 surplus.

The budget for next year is being prepared and will be brought to an upcoming Board meeting for review and discussion. In addition, the office is working on automating our systems and reports, which will make them timelier.

There was a Q & A session on the budget:

Q. Why is the bad debt so high?

A. The aged A/R needed to be written off.

Q. What is included in the Donations line?

A. People making honorary gifts or gifts in memory of someone.

Membership Report

No membership was given as Debbie Zeger is in Israel.

Clergy Search Update

Abe Glazer gave the update on Cantorial search.

There are 3 scheduled interviews in March with exciting candidates which will include participation in Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. The congregation is encouraged to attend services to meet these candidates:

Weekend of March 9/10th:

Hazzan Shira Lissek currently of The Park Ave Synagogue in NYC.

Weekend of March 16/17th:

Hazzan Steven J Walvick from New Jersey.

Weekend of March 23/24th:

Hazzan Jeff Warschauer who has a Klezmer style.

Recently five more applications have been received. The committee will complete Skype interviews with those they would like to pursue further.

The Search Committee and Rabbi Bitran think we should bring in as many of the good candidates as possible. Debbie Zeger will send out bios of the candidates we are bringing to town.

Abe congratulated Bruce Green and Bobbi Feldman for their work so far. Abe thanked Rachel Glazer, a member of the committee, who sent out more information on the Rochester community, which has increased our pool of candidates.

Presidents Report

A candidate for the Religious School Director met with Debbie Zeger, Rabbi Bitran and Seth Charatz. This candidate is from Buffalo and would not be relocating, but rather commuting. We will continue to review this candidate and keep our job posting active. Updates will continue to be provided to the Board.

Right now the school is functioning well. Jody Dietz and Becca Zaretsky are doing an excellent job handling the day-to-day functions of the school, which reduces our need to rush to hire someone.

Good and Welfare

Thank you to Men's Club for:

- Buying a large screen TV for the Youth Lounge
- A great Super Bowl Party
- Purchasing Tefillin
- This coming Shabbat is Men's Club Shabbat.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Maas-Vangellow and Debi Brenner.