

TBI Board Minutes August 14, 2014

Present: Craig S., Amy S., Hap P. Geraldine M., Maram E., Justine L., Scott F., Bruce K.; Nina, Rabbi Boris; minutes by Alan L.

Absent:

Nathan Philips, Mindy Schlossberg, Richard Shugar, Marsha Ginsberg, Michael Griffel

Torah Study – Rabbi Boris, Talmud Brachot 28a – the doorkeeper left the door open and a lot more students showed up. Was it a good thing? Community – is more better?

Public Forum - No members or public present for public forum.

Engagement Report – Nate the TBI Engagement Coordinator was introduced to the Board. Discussed two engagement items – annual phone call check-in Board members with membership and Ambassador program. His research shows that an Ambassador program using volunteers assigned to new members can have a great impact on successfully engaging new members. Board discussed the phone call idea with pros and cons discussed. Board voiced support for the Ambassador program.

Security Committee Report – Thanks to Scott for agreeing to chair what will be known as the “Safety and Security” committee. Scott reported on a meeting that had taken place prior to the summer camp and on his efforts to populate the committee and get to work. Scott wants to start with building safety issues and go from there.

Report from Legacy Circles – See Nina’s written report for this meeting on how the Legacy Circle effort is going. Maram asks Bruce to work with Marsha G. on offering free membership to staff and what that might look like and to report back to Board.

Report from Tefilla U’Minhag Committee – Evlyn Gould reported on the preparations for the HH days. She reports that preparations are going well and the committee is working with Rabbi Yitz as he crafts his last HH services as our Senior Rabbi. Outreach being done to bring more folks to the Slichot service at the start of the HH days. Evlyn also reported on her new once a month “Shabbat Alive” service – popular and high energy.

Nina reported that the Sisterhood is going to try a once a month oneg after Shabbat morning services with a light lunch provided.

Maram talked about the need to get some lay leaders prepared for some important functions like leading a Shiva Minyan so that we are ready when we are a one Rabbi congregation. Rabbi Boris also talked about the role of the Tefillah U’Minhag committee as being a place to discuss the expanded role of lay leadership and developing processes for how we use lay leaders.

TBI participation at Sweet Peace on Sept. 20 – Board discussed participation in this event and the possibility of asking the Federation and the JCRC to attend. Consensus to ask Federation if they are interested.

May Minutes - Approved by consensus.

Finance Committee Report – Amy delivered the report from the Finance Committee. The lights are on – waiting for final numbers but looks like we finished last fiscal year with a \$65,000 cash balance to the positive. We brought in 34k less than we had budgeted for, but our expenses were 95k less than budgeted (largely due to payroll savings) and also less spent on mortgage interest. Nathan and Amy working on a “cash flow” statement to help understand how the money flows through the Synagogue throughout the year.

Motion:

The finance committee is recommending changing the name of two of the restricted funds that are held at OJCF. The Grandparents Endowment Fund to be called the Temple Beth Israel Endowment Fund and the Geisen/Nuestadter Fund to be called the Temple Beth Israel Talmud Torah Education Fund. These funds were established years ago. There does not seem to be instructions left by the original donors that prevent us from making a name change. Future endowment and legacy gifts will be deposited into these accounts depending on the wishes of the donor. Changing the name helps to clarify the use of the funds.

Alan Moved to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee and to change the names of the two funds as specified above.

Craig Seconded

All Board members present voted to approve. No abstentions.

Executive Director Report – The Board thanked Nina for her written report. Nina also discussed the Sept. 7th 80th Anniversary event at TBI. It is an afternoon event and sanctuary, social hall and Library will be open. Board members encouraged to attend. Craig remarked about the status of the Reconstructionist movement and recent staffing changes including Rabbi Jane L.’s departure.

Rabbi Report – The Board thanked Rabbi Boris for his written report and for being present for our community during a difficult few months. Justine reported positive feedback from Rabbi B’s emails to the community and Scott and Bruce reported similar feedback.

Executive Session – The Board went in to Executive Session and then adjourned.