

Minutes from TBI Board Meeting, November 5, 2015, 7 pm

Present: Nathan Philips, Maram Epstein, Justine Lovinger, Marsha Ginsberg, Michael Griffel, Richard Shugar, Jeff Kirtner, Craig Starr, Amy Steckel, Bruce Kreitzberg, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin-Rubinstein
Absent: Hap Ponedel, Aura Solomon, Scott Fellman, Richard Argosh, Mindy Schlossberg (on sabbatical)

Torah Study-- Rabbi Ruhi Sophia led us in a discussion of a short verse from Genesis 24. She linked Abraham's anxieties to our forthcoming community discussion about temple membership.
Minutes Approved

Open Forum: Lisa Ponder present.
Staff Reports:

Talmud Torah (attached rpt.)
Enrollment at 72, down from 88 last year. Changes in enrolled were ascribed to demographic changes. A discussion ensued about how the general fund subsidizes the program at 35% of Talmud Torah's total budget.

Executive Director (attached rpt.)
Currently TBI has 342 member households, down from 371 last year. On the upside, we didn't lose much revenue overall because our Mortgage Interest Assessment brought in more than projected and the total dues and Circles giving by the remaining families was only slightly reduced from the prior year.
Rabbi Ruhi Sophia (attached rpt.)
6 members have been recruited for the Israel Task Force. First meeting to be scheduled soon. Values-Based Decision Making to be implemented as our community revises membership policy. Rabbi Ruhi Sophia presented her proposal and a timeline for going through this process. Following board discussion, the Rabbi will continue to refine the proposals in advance of the Nov. 18 Congregational Meeting.

Finance Update
We are in the process of transferring our accounts from Banner Bank to Oregon Pacific Bank for a variety of reasons. We will also be refinancing our mortgage with them for a slightly lower interest rate. As a result of this, and the fact that we just paid \$100,000 towards principal our monthly mortgage payments will decrease by about \$600. When we receive the balance due on Portland Street, we will deposit this to principal as well to further reduce the debt on our building.

Congregational Meeting, November 18
Nathan encourages board members to heighten interest in this meeting, that we are not just covering business per se but discussing the provocative topic of membership. The Election: Pearl Wolf, Jessica Lambright, and Jared Rubin are the Board nominees.

Dec. 6 Rabbi Ruhi Sophia's installation-- Board members should wear tags

Jan. 8 Installation of the Board, and Oneg hosted by board with meet and greet

Directory Solicitations

Nathan asked Board members to seek out businesses who want to run ads in our directory

Federation Lease Renewal

Tax exemption revoked by the county for Federation space at TBI. Nathan spoke to Margo about making a financial contribution to offset our costs. She will ask her board to consider a \$36/mo. payment.

Craig to pursue the appeal of the county decision to revoke the tax exemption.

Committees Issues Process Update

Committee Chairs now have forms to complete. Another meta-meeting TBA and maybe standards to adopt will emerge from that meeting.

By-Laws Update

Board of Trustees-- not the Nominating Committee-- should nominate its officers (Exec. Committee)

Nathan addressed the role of the Board President. He believes that the the President should chair the Nominating Committee to preserve the continuity and health of the board. Our present by-laws, he argued, don't emphasize the Board's responsibility to perpetuate itself. Nathan will have a conversation with the By-Laws Committee about this and will look for further advice from the Reconstructionist Movement, including from other congregations.

Rpt. on the Reconstructionist Plenum Meeting of November 1

Craig spoke about the ratification of the Board of Governors and the Rabbinical College Admissions Process

Israel Conversation Debrief

Last Saturday a prayer and Havdala service for Israel was held at TBI
Rabbi reports that 18 people attended and that she only received positive feedback.
Those in attendance represented a wide spectrum of political beliefs.