

**Minutes from the Temple Beth Israel Board Meeting**  
**February 11, 2016 5:30 PM**  
Temple Beth Israel - 29th and University, Eugene, Oregon

**Present:** Richard Argosh, Maram Epstein, Scott Fellman, Michael Griffel, Jeff Kirtner, Nina Korican, Bruce Kreitzberg, Jessica Lambright, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein, Nathan Philips, Jared Rubin, Mindy Schlossberg, Aura Solomon, Craig Starr, Pearl Wolfe

**Regrets:** Justine Lovinger, Amy Steckel

**Agenda**

- Torah study was facilitated by Rabbi Ruhi Sophia
- Minutes from the January 14, 2016 TBI Board Meeting.  
**Action:** Minutes amended: “Financial report” section, about nine lines down, had read “...royal limited partnership”, was corrected to read “...Royal limited partnership”. The Amended Minutes from the January 14, 2016 TBI Board Meeting - unanimously approved.
- Public Comment. There was no public comment.
- The TBI Congregational Meeting. The date of the Congregational Meeting has been changed from May 19, 2016 to May 26, 2016.
- Financial report
  - (Amy Steckel was not at the meeting.) Nathan reported that the Financial Statements for January 2016, which had just been received, looked in order.
  - Portland Street Building sale: The lien on the property should be cleared within a week. Once completed, TBI will receive the final \$50,000 from Network Charter School and have fulfilled the commitment to clear the lien.
- Nina Korican’s, Executive Director Monthly Report.
  - The ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training, which “prepares individuals to handle the threat of an Active Shooter - ALICE teaches individuals to participate in their own survival, while leading others to safety”, session which several TBI representatives attended, was briefly discussed. The TBI Safety

Committee will be following up with planning and conducting practice drills. The first focus will be on preparing for response at events.

- Rabbi Ruhi Sophia's Monthly Report.
  - Rabbi Ruhi Sophia was recognized by Board Members for doing an outstanding job representing TBI at the Eugene Community Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally.
- Gretchen Lieberman's Talmud Torah Monthly Report.
  - It was reported that things are going smoothly this term.
  - Kelly Edwards was hired to run Camp Chaverim this summer.
  - The Talmud Torah budget is in good shape.
- TBI Dream Auction.
  - TBI Boards members who are willing/able to donate bottles of wine (of \$25 value or more) for the wine pull were asked to sign-up.
  - Donations of items for the auction are needed.
  - Attendance/participation in the auction is needed.
- Conestoga hut proposal.
  - Conestoga hut proposal (sent to TBI Board Members, in Board Meeting materials packet). Jenny Lumpton (spelling?) from the Eugene Southeast Neighbors Association shared information about the proposal. She stated that Conestoga huts are considered vehicles by the City of Eugene, though the wheels are square. The program is operated through St. Vincent DePaul. The program is similar to the Car/Camper Camping program in which TBI is participating (though there is not currently anyone Car/Camper Camping), except the occupant stays in a Conestoga hut rather than a car/camper. St. Vincent DePaul provides a porta-potty, porta-potty service and trash removal (TBI could provide the trash removal). The Conestoga hut would be placed in the TBI parking lot (there is sufficient space). The hut would be ready as soon as \$2,500 is donated to purchase it (Jenny plans to raise the money, though it was stated that members of TBI may be interested in contributing as well). It was stated that this project needed to be operated by TBI member volunteers and not the TBI staff.  
**Action:** Vote to support the request for one Conestoga hut in the TBI parking lot and to form a committee to implement— unanimously approved. Pearl Wolfe and Scott Fellman agreed to chair the committee and to connect with Richie Weinman, TBI liaison with St. Vincent DePaul, and to include the Tzedakah V'Chesed Committee.
- By-Laws Update and Discussion.
  - Craig Starr recognized the other people who have been working on the process to revise the By-Laws including: Allan Leyman, Scott Fellman, Lisa

Ponder, Adam Atman, Nathan Philips and Jeff Kirtner. Craig has done an outstanding job leading the By-Laws revision process.

- A “By-Laws Revision Items for Board Discussion” document was sent to the TBI Board, in the Board Meeting materials packet. The Board went through these items individually, accepted the “as is”, or voted to amend, and then voted on all seven items collectively, which will be incorporated to the proposed By-Laws revision:

1. Quorums: Too high? Will these impede the ability to conduct business?

a. Congregational Meetings: 30 members (Article II, Section 2(d)).

b. Board Meetings: 2/3 of the voting members of the Board (Article III, Section 4(b)(i)).

**Action:** Both “a” and “b” unanimously approved as presented.

2. Quorums: Quorums: Too low? Should we require more than 10 members request or petition in order to:

a. Seek reversal of a Board decision to not renew or extend a rabbinic contract? Article II, Section 3(h) and Article III, Section 3(c)(v).

b. Request a special meeting of the Congregation? Article II, Section 2(b)(ii).

**Action:** Motion to change “10 members” to “36 members” for both “a” and “b” - unanimously approved.

3. Youth membership and participation: Board already decided at its Jan 25, 2015 meeting to retain the “Youth Membership” category, but had concerns and objections about the extent of voting rights by youth members and by the youth board representative. Does the restrictive language – youth members and representative cannot vote on “matters that directly affect the finances or personnel of the Congregation” – meet those concerns or objections?

a. Youth member voting rights: Article II, Section 1(d)(i)(1).

b. Youth member representation: Article III, Section 1(a)(ii).

**Action 1:** Motion to keep as presented - rejected by a vote 5 in-favor; 7 opposed. **Action 2:** Motion that a. Youth voting rights stay as presented and b. TBI Youth Board Representative member be amended to allow the TBI Youth Board Representative to vote on all matters at TBI Board meetings (including finances and personnel) – approved by a vote of 9 in-favor; 4 opposed.

4. Non-voting representation of Auxiliary Chavurot on the Board: Should we retain this provision? What purpose or benefit does a

non-voting position give to a Chavurah of the Congregation that is not conveyed by their right to attend any Board meeting? Article III, Section 1(b).

**Action:** Motion to eliminate this section - unanimously approved.

5. Recall of trustees or officers: Is a supermajority of 2/3 necessary, instead of a simple majority, when the Congregation votes to remove/recall an officer or trustee, or votes to approve/ratify a Board decision to recall or remove a trustee or officer? The Board removal of an officer or trustee already requires 2/3 vote, so is a supermajority of the Congregational vote also necessary to approve that decision? The Congregation elects trustees and officers by a simple majority, so should a supermajority be required if the Congregation (without prior Board action) wants to recall or remove one? Article II, Section 3(d) and Article III, Section 3(3)(v).

**Action:** Motion made to have this section read, if removal is by Congregation without Board support, 2/3 majority required; if Board takes the action, 2/3 of Board majority required and simple majority (over 50%) required from Congregation - unanimously approved.

6. Added exceptions to limitations on Board authority to make an expenditure which are intended to increase Board flexibility to manage finances. Does the Board agree these are appropriate and still provide adequate safeguards for the Congregation?
  - a. Budgeted spending: Removes the line item budgeted-amount limit on Board spending; substitutes standard that total actual spending not exceed approved/budgeted spending. Article III, Section 3(b)(2).
  - b. Spending not approved in advance by Congregation: To the existing \$5,000 limit, adds an alternative standard that total actual spending not exceed approved/budgeted spending. Article II, Section 3(f) and Article III, Section 3(b)(1).

**Action:** Both "a" and "b" unanimously approved as presented.

7. Personnel responsibility and supervision: Is the Board comfortable shifting the bulk of personnel responsibility from the Board to the Executive Committee, consistent with present practice? Article III, Section 3(c)(i) and (ii).

**Action:** unanimously approved as presented.

**Action:** Motion to approve all of the sections of the By-Laws as described above - unanimously approved.

- Talmud Torah
  - Rabbi Ruhi Sophia, Nina, Nathan, Karri Walters-Warren, Jodi Seasonwein, Jessica Lambright and Gretchen Lieberman met to discuss implementation of recommendations in consultant's report.
  - A subset of the group that met (above) is developing a summary of the consultant's report for the Talmud Torah Committee and a summary report for the congregation. Both reports will be free from private, personal and personnel comments.
  - Rabbi Ruhi Sophia, Nina and Nathan met with Sharon Ungerlieider regarding implementation of the recommendations in consultant's report. Sharon Ungerlieider offered to pay for 2, 1-hour coaching sessions a month for 6 months for Talmud Torah.
  
- Board Retreat, March 13, 2106, 9:00am-3:00pm
  - Board Members are asked to bring food to share for breakfast ("potluck")
  - Chuck Kalnbach agreed to help facilitate the strategic planning process at the retreat.
  - Nathan, Mindy and Chuck will further discuss the process/approach to be used at the retreat during a planning meeting on February 28, at 11:30am, all Board members are welcome to participate.
  - There was discussion that the strategic planning process at the retreat should include "strategically" considering where TBI resources should be dedicated, now that we have gone from two Rabbis to one and a commitment was made to "fill gaps" and address needs. This could include support for Talmud Torah, congregational programming and other things. An important element of this process is a "needs assessment". Nina was asked to bring an outline of a "needs assessment" for where TBI resources are needed, to the Board Retreat for review and discussion.
  - It was suggested that the gap analysis developed from the Rabbinic Search Committee Parlor Meetings be brought to the retreat to assist with the strategic planning process.
  
- Valued Based Decision Making process facilitated by Rabbi Ruhi Sophia (regarding the membership element of the By-Laws)
  - Progress will be reported to Congregation at Congregational Meeting May 26, 2016.
  - The committee is surveying 15-20 "big tent" synagogues to learn how they approach membership.
  - Three she-ors (study sessions) will be offered in March for the Congregation regarding TBI membership and the place of the "other" in the Jewish community: March 10, 7:00pm, March 12, afternoon, March 17, 7:00pm.
  
- End of Meeting

