

TBI Board of Trustees Meeting

January, 12, 2017

Temple Beth Israel

Present: Richard Argosh, Michael Griffel, Jeff Kirtner, Bruce Kreitzberg, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Jess Lambright, Justine Lovinger, Reisa Maddex, Bella Moses, Nathan Philips, Julie Raiskin, Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin-Rubenstein, Mindy Schlossberg, Aura Solomon, Amy Steckel, Pearl Wolfe. **Absent:** Nina Korican, Jared Rubin.

Torah Study: This week's parsha and Martin Luther King's final speech.

Public Forum: No attendees.

Welcome and Introductions: Group introductions were made to help welcome new trustees.

Minutes Approval: December Board meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Preschool Update: Amy previously reported that the preschool appeared to be in a \$20,000 budget deficit, but Carole Diller agreed to decrease from a full time schedule to 3 days per week, saving \$11,000. A fundraising letter to nonmember alumni raised \$7000, leaving only \$2500 as a budget deficit. A transfer of funds from preschool special funds may be used to align the remaining deficit.

A committee will be formed to start visioning the future of the preschool and the transition after Carole's retirement. An advertising agent will help the preschool improve its online presence via new reviews, Yelp and other resources.

Strategic Plan Update: The Board broke into small groups to identify plans for each strategy under each of five goals for 25 minutes. The value of this exercise was discussed after and found to be worthwhile for working toward TBI's strategic goals. Board time for this type of work will be tried again in February. It allows for productive time within an otherwise (sometimes) methodical meeting. Some future board meetings may use the whole trustees group to focus on specific goals. A question was raised whether we are simply producing a document or if we are trying to begin executing some goals.

Membership Task Force Update: Bruce gave an update on the Task Force's work of late including: the plan for parlor meetings; the rabbi's letter to members and updated website material; the planned current timeline for task force work, Board consideration and May Congregational Meeting. Bruce raised the question of who votes in the May vote? That is, would a May congregational vote, should it happen, follow recent practice or official bylaws guidelines? Discussion followed. Mindy concluded that the matter of that vote needs more discussion. Mindy also urged sensitivity to all viewpoints on the general matter of membership policy.

Financials: Amy's report used November data. Financial outlook is improving for both preschool and Talmud Torah. Gretchen did a budget projection that looks favorable. Nina's dues projections are also encouraging, though 16 households have still not replied to dues requests. Jacque Albert will now separate out Talmud Torah funding, accounting line 42900. Nina is successfully keeping expenses down.

Amy proposed that TBI adopt a policy for uncashed, accounts payable checks to vendors, employees, etc., to be reissued after contacting the payee. The intention is to reduce lengthy uncertainty. A motion was made and passed unanimously to adopt this policy.

Executive Director Report: Nina was absent, but submitted a report electronically.

Rabbi Report: Rabbi Ruhi submitted and distributed a report by email. Additionally, she made two requests. To honor the T'Bishvat holiday, Rabbi Ruhi would like to ask Jericca to raise contributions and gift it to Friends of Trees of Eugene to plant 10-20 trees at \$35 each.

The Eugene womens march event following next week's Presidential Inauguration has invited Rabbi Ruhi to speak at their event, but she would have to leave Shabbat morning services early. She asked for discussion and direction in this scheduling conflict. Members of the board supported the idea of the rabbi leaving services early on this day to participate in this event to help represent community values of social justice.

Talmud Torah Report: Gretchen submitted a report electronically. Jess Lambright highlighted a few items. The Hanukkah celebration fundraiser made money this year. Budget considerations for Talmud Torah are being discussed. Camp Chaverim budget deficit issue is going to be discussed more.

Rabbi Ruhi discussed editing two Talmud Torah students with disrespectful d'vars Torah.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.