

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 13, 2017

Temple Beth Israel

The meeting began at 7:03 pm.

Present. Richard Argosh, Michael Griffel, Jeff Kirtner, Nina Korican, Bruce Kreitzberg, Jess Lambright, Reisa Maddex, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Bella Moses, Amy Steckel, Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein, Jared Rubin, Mindy Schlossberg, Aura Solomon, Pearl Wolfe. Guests, Judy Boles and Bob Bussel

Torah Study. Leviticus 23 verses 15-16. The counting of the Omer, its practice and why.

Sanctuary Congregation Proposal. Guests Bob Bussel and Judy Boles led discussion. Bob works at Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County. Immigrants currently face draconian conditions and feel under threat. Hunger and fear are results of current policy. Sanctuary movement is about standing up against current climate and policy. Currently, physical sanctuary is needed less than financial support and solidarity or moral support. If TBI states its support, it is a very helpful action and helps to perpetuate momentum in local and religious communities. Sanctuary movement task force would partner with Latinx non-profit to decide how any raised funds might be utilized. Funds would probably be turned over to one of the partnering Latinx alliance groups. For the Temple Beth Israel Statement of Sanctuary Commitment, section B, change to "The Board of Temple Beth Israel and congregants, so authorized, may engage in any of the following activities representing the synagogue community." Jared made a motion to endorse the proposal, Aura seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Minutes approval. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Financial – budget. End of February financials were discussed by Amy. TBI is operating in the black. A \$50,000 payment was made on the principle of the mortgage and this lowered monthly payments and lowered budget by a few thousand dollars. Finance committee approved a \$50 increase for families in dues, with the assumption that a community conversation will ensue to evaluate dues in general. Jared asked questions about TBI's building mortgage and Amy answered. Budget does include a transfer-in of \$20,000 from reserves. Michael made a motion to approve the budget as submitted, Jess seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws update. The congregation's vote will be at the May congregational meeting. Mindy's letter to the congregation was apparently well received by much of the community. Mindy asked how TBI might enforce the May 4 vote on bylaws and Nina explained a likely process. The bylaws vote will happen with ballots and the budget vote will happen by a show of hands. An honor system will be assumed for people to sort themselves as Jews and non-Jews for the bylaws vote. The Friends of TBI proposal will be mentioned at the Congregational meeting, but the Board can establish that idea's membership status without a vote by the congregation. The Board approved the bylaws as drafted for submission to the Congregation on May 4. Jeff made the motion and it passed unanimously.

Maternity leave/ high holiday plan. Mindy and Nathan's latest meeting with Rabbi Emeritus Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin yielded an agreement for him to lead high holiday services this year in Rabbi Ruhi's maternity absence. Rabbi Yitzhak will also have some pastoral care duties and may be available on a fee-for-service arrangement for other special needs. There will also be TBI lay leaders on call for some needs.

Executive director report. Discussion about life and legacy. Nina made a pitch for auction items for TBI's Dream Auction. Nina reported from the plenum. TBI received \$5000 from Oregon Jewish Community Federation for pledges and commitments that came in. Maram Epstein will continue leading TBI's Life and Legacy, but she needs more people to help her make the solicitations to community members individually. One or two Board members are encouraged to consider joining this effort.

Rabbi report. Rabbi Ruhi reported shifting some of her duties toward delegated responsibility as she devotes more time and energy toward current programming and tikkun olam activities. Rabbi Ruhi attended a weekend workshop of an antinuclear and climate activist who discussed how to engage community about facing environmental change. Rabbi Ruhi will bring some of her gleanings to programming at TBI. Rabbi Ruhi also reported talking with local Christian clergy about anti-Semitism and was asked by some leaders to speak to their communities about the subject.

Talmud Torah report. A report was submitted electronically by Gretchen Lieberman.

Other business. Preschool update. Mindy reported that June, 2018 is preschool director, Carol Diller's retirement date. Mindy is trying to form a committee to take steps toward finding a new director. Currently, changed hours are helping with enrollment. Preschool will now offer 9-12 hours in addition to the existing 9-2 option.

Executive session. Rabbi Ruhi performance review process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Recorded and submitted by Bruce Kreitzberg.