

BHBE Board Meeting Minutes Via Zoom 11/16/22 at 7:30 PM

Present: Dan Meyer, Cynthia Lerner, Harvey Meyers, Allison Kamen, Carla Banoff, Carter Greene, Zvi Tannenbaum, Diane Goldman, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Gail Schniederman, Gail Swerdlik, Greer Braun, Harold Primack, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Harris Miller, Ellen Sered, Ira Dubin, Jay Goldstein, Jessica Littman, Jon Clemons, Michael Lehrer, Minnie Goldsmith, Rochelle Leff, Leah Buchbinder, Shoshanna Reynolds, Larry Plawsky

Absent: Steve Bucksbaum, Fred Rosenwasser, Helen Stopek, Robin Smulson

Clergy/Staff: Michael Kahn

Meeting began at 7:34 pm

Jennifer Wertheimer stepped down from the board.

Dan Meyer was appointed by Cynthia Lerner to join the board.

Joan Meyers motioned that minutes be approved.

Harriet Ost seconded.

The minutes passed unanimously.

No Rabbi's report/De'Var Torah – Rabbi Crane was on vacation.

President's Report: - Cynthia Lerner:

Cynthia encouraged all board members to attend services.

Committees will begin to meet soon. The building storage areas need cleaning.

Paper directory requested – quoted for \$3000 (250 paper directories).

We have a digital directory through our synagogue accounts and ShulCloud.

Susan Kay's idea is to make it a simple directory with information on the front and back.

Greer Braun suggested we create an ad book with the directory that would generate revenue.

This discussion will continue to include Larry Plawsky

Board drop in on Sunday, Dec. 11th 9-11 am.

Michael Kahn – Executive Director's Report: Fire inspector came to look at the building and was concerned about the storage issue. There are a few issues to resolve - Michael is following up.

Will work with Paychex to update our handbook.

Please sign up by Wednesday, Nov. 23rd to attend the Shabbat dinner on Friday, Dec. 2nd 5:30 pm meet/greet. Services at 6 PM. Dinner to follow.

Michael called existing Littles participants who are not members to see if they're interested in joining.

He's in touch with Wilmette Police about anti-Semitic incidents in the area.

More streaming on Friday nights than in person. Saturday mornings are opposite.

Michael explained how long certain funds will last on a list. Also, to look into dormant funds that are not in use.

Family membership is 191

329 paid members

354 total members

There's concern about the cost of membership and economic inflation. We are giving out more consideration than in the past. Need to keep this in mind when thinking of membership costs going forward. Also, we should not turn anyone away.

Greer asked whether members can fulfill time to the synagogue through volunteering if they ask for assistance.

Susan Kay mentioned a different membership structure according to the Strategic Plan. Other synagogues have it. Need to do research and collect data. Cynthia asked if Susan were interested in joining.

Michael Lehrer - Treasurer: 7.5% on LOC and went over the budget.

Income: \$876,379 Expenses: \$500,792 (July 1st-June 30th period)

Larry Plawsky – Ways and Means: We sent out thank you notes to everyone that sent annual appeals. We're at 92% of our high holiday annual appeal. Small group to discuss the Gala and regular meetings with a larger group in January 2023. It will be in June 2023.

Jessica Littman – Ordered name tags for all board members with name and position. We will wear them at Shabbat services.

Greer Braun – Donate money from Sisterhood to the Ark through Tuesday, Nov. 22nd and drop off supplies/toiletries at the office.

Holiday boutique is Sunday, Nov. 20th and benefits BHBE – 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

New/Old Business:

Joan Meyers: Fun evening event – there will be a show Feb. 25th, 2023 – the Chicago Bar Association Show at the synagogue with desert for \$45 a person.

Action Items:

Please let Michael Kahn know if you want to help with planning future budget and dues. He will share info with Michael Lehrer.

Cynthia Lerner will discuss the paper directory/ad book with Larry Plawsky – will be tabled to our December 2022.

Cynthia Lerner suggests we form a committee to discuss dues for 2023-2024.

Fran Diamond: Question about projecting fund usage into the future.

Continue
conversation to track streaming users/membership conversions for next year's

High Holiday services.

Committee chairs should be in
touch with those who signed up for their committees before the next board
meeting. (Fran Diamond, Carla Banoff, Gail (which Gail?))

Harold Primack: Begin to prepare the budget for the 2023-2024 year.

Attend the Legacy Committee's Dedication Ceremony on Dec. 17th and Kiddush lunch enhanced by the committee.

Jessica or Cynthia will reach out to Aaron Frankel about how many people attended children's and teen services that are interested in becoming members for Allison Kamen (Academy Board).

Action Item Update: Allison Kamen gave a follow up report: We have a growing number of regulars for High Holidays, Tot Shabbat, Littles programs. 62 total students. 7th and 8th grade are considered at risk following their bar/bat mitzvahs. 9th and 10th grade is also a risk because they often leave the Academy.

43 families with kids ages 5-12.

34 families altogether are enrolled in the Academy.

3 families are not enrolled in the Academy nor in private school with children 5-12.

The Academy must be grown with new membership from outside BHBE.

Anti-semitism and issues on college campuses should be discussed in the Academy per Jessica Littman's suggestion. Michael stated the ADL will provide information to Aaron. Trent will come to speak about antisemitism on campus.

Greer Braun suggested we advertise our Hebrew High program.

Meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

Next Meeting: 12/21/22 at 7:30 PM via Zoom