

Special General Board Meeting Minutes 6/10/24 @ 7:30 PM - Hybrid

Current Board Members Present: Harris Miller, Cynthia Lerner, Jon Clemons (Zoom), Elly Rousso (Zoom), Carla Banoff, Shoshanna Reynolds (Zoom), Marsha Lyons, Greer Braun (Zoom), Rochelle Leff, Carol Pellish (Zoom), Leah Buchbinder (Zoom), Steven Levin (Zoom), Allison Kamen (Zoom), Gail Schnitzer-Eisenberg (Zoom), Carter Greene (zoom), Fred Rosenwasser (Zoom), Ira Dubin

Future Board Members Present: David Mogul (Zoom), Joan Kripke (Zoom), Stewart Miller, Ken Cohen (Zoom), Harriet Robbins-Ost (Zoom), Fran Diamond (Zoom), Andrea Graham (Zoom)

Clergy: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane (Zoom)

Update on our Future:

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

Potentially will work with Niles Township-Ezra-Habonim on Dempster Street near Devonshire Park in Skokie (200 members) - continuing talks (36,000 square feet) Also, has 50 member minyan. They would buy back the building by fundraising. We would pay towards this too and renovations if we follow through on the deal. They would put up \$2.5 million and we would possibly cover the other half for around \$2.5 million to make improvements in the building and bring it up to code. The hope is to eventually combine (administrative functions). Half utilities, grounds keeping, but have our own clergy.

Possibly create an umbrella organization to manage the collaboration. Have conversations with them about the space and putting money into the building with the board, etc.

We need about 12,000 to 15,000 square feet if possible. Must be affordable for us.

Common to have synagogue buildings home to multiple congregations.

Board members are comfortable with exploring this and other options. Discussions are early in the process. Still remain very cautious.

Would need to speak to an attorney and do a title search. We would also have a due diligence period wherever we move and building inspection.

Could build a new synagogue together if we come to an agreement.

Still may need to change zoning if we moved into a non-religious facility.

Board direction will be required to move forward.

Rabbi Crane: Vibrant Jewish community in Skokie and great area for BHBE.

Michael Kahn: Will need an attorney. They will charge us.

Non-binding vote to continue discussions: 12-7, 4 abstain

Michael Kahn - Bulletin - Important to streamline communications. Take features and merge into the weekly newsletter as it serves as a mailer. Idea would be to rotate between those who write an article. The bulletin is redundant. Important in saving Jackie's time writing it. Once per month. Printed bulletin twice per year (high holidays and Passover). Important to be able to sell our synagogue to new congregants. Prospective members only get some emails and newsletters. Could email to them instead of mail including the annual report. Printing is very expensive.

Facebook Post - "Beth Hillel Closing" and about a "Rabbi" (NOT Rabbi Crane) claiming this in Buffalo Grove Neighbors: Michael Kahn found out during the Gala on Sunday, 6/9/24. Reached out to Cynthia and Jessica - Notified staff, board and congregants. Research was done. We know who's responsible for the post. It was twisted out of the truth and was pulled. Also, this post was discovered on a Russian/English Facebook page. Michael reached out to other executive directors too. Adam Goldfarb reached out to those he knew on Facebook and online about this issue. Michael Kahn and Jackie Ernest texted and answered calls regarding this throughout Monday, 6/10/24 including on Facebook. The post in Buffalo Grove Neighbors post was taken down, but the post on the Russian/English Facebook page remained as of this evening.

Meeting ended at 8:31 PM.

Next Board Meeting: **6/26/24 @ 7:30 PM**