

BHBE General Board Meeting Minutes 2025.01.22

Present: Carla Banoff, Jon Clemons, Ken Cohen, Fran Diamond, Laurie Feinstein, Andrea Graham, David Greenstein, Joan Kripke, Steve Levin, Jessica Littmann, Joan Meyers, Stewart Miller, Harris Miller, David Mogul, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Fred Rosenwasser, Elly Rousso, Gail Schneiderman, Barbara Ungar, Irv Zagorin

Congregants: Steve Kollmann, Lia Niederberger, Joseph Palomares

Clergy: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane, [Cantor Roytman](#)

David Mogul motions to approve the minutes and the consent agenda.

Irv Zagorin seconds the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mission Touch - Joseph Palomares

Rabbi Crane's De'Var Torah and Report: - Please see Consent Agenda Report

[Jessica Littmann](#)- President

Requests additional appearances from the board at services, programs and events including ushering. Name tags or lanyards for board members to wear at services, programs/events.

Mock version will be posted in Google Drive.

Work of the board happens in committees (best to end board meetings at 9 PM).

Will reach out to board members to confirm which committee(s) they will serve on.

Need a programming person to plan events and to volunteer for the day of.

Need more board involvement for the 2025 Gala.

Committee chairs will be invited to future board meetings.

Executive Committee Update:

We crushed our high holiday appeal goal

We discussed how we'll be looking for money/payments whether in a deposit or full payment.

Reviews for the clergy - Michael Kahn's will be in February.

Michael Kahn - Executive Director - Please see Consent Agenda Report

Fran Diamond - Advancement

\$125,100 was fundraised during the high holiday appeal. We crushed the goal!

Thank you to the Littmann and Cohen families who were generous matchers this year!

Donations were significantly increased in our community.

It was suggested to call it "Annual Appeal." instead of "High Holiday Appeal" and to start it early.

Bring back the Yom Kippur message for donations/the appeal.

Perhaps move the Cantor's concert to outside the "Annual Appeal" period.

79 did the increased donation from the previous year.

33 new donors.

A thank you letter will be sent to those who donated.

Have someone reach out.

Bring these talking points to committee chairs for their committees.

Adhoc call bank will be super helpful.

Big thank you to Fran for helping.

Steve Kollmann, Jon Clemons - Real Estate Committee

Went over the committee's charter, purpose what they can/cannot do, actions and committee makeup.

Updates on properties, what we've learned and what to do in the future.

Golf Road property in Skokie is under contract - off the table.

Dempster property in Skokie will not be pursued - not great for the amount of congregants and concerns about the elevator - off the table.

Church property in Evanston is going forward with the current buyer under contract - off the table.

We need to be faster and more decisive on what to pursue. Conversation with larger donors for suggestions. Will look at more properties for rent and sale. Extend lease at current property beyond 12/31/25 (not extended yet) (Financial constraints). Provide direct updates to the congregation. The next three months are critical to find a solution. What we want to buy or lease including a build out takes lots of time and effort.

The Real Estate Committee meets every Wednesday.

Looking into space sharing arrangements with other Jewish organizations.

Old Business - None

New Business

Kiddush Cups given at Bat Mitzvahs - Ritual Committee and Sisterhood to discuss.

Bar to the Future on Saturday, Feb. 22nd, 2025.

Fran Diamond motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM

Joan Meyers seconds the motion

The motion was approved unanimously.