

Beth El Board Minutes 3/7/2019

Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Yaakov Cohn
- Ellen Glickman-Simon
- Judy Goldberg
- Sheila Goldberg
- Michael Joachim
- Toby Kopman
- Laurie Margolies
- Steve Probst
- Lizza Sandoe
- Helen Shik
- Jen Stevens
- Marcos Szydlo

Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Beth Schine
- Janet Buchwald

Agenda

- Hebrew with Janet: 10 min
- Rabbi's report: 5 min
- L'Taken report: Judy, 10 min
- Membership and administration report: Beth, 5 min
- Budgeting and Financial Report: Mike, 25 min
- Plans for Spring Fundraiser Concert: 30 min, Ellen, Helen, Lizza
- Comments and questions about delivered reports: 10 min

Board Votes

- None

Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)

Rabbi's Report

- Excited to celebrate his first Purim with the congregation
- Planning for next Shabbat across the generations
- Teaching two sessions on introduction to Judaism, intended for Jews and non-Jews in MetroWest, sponsored by URJ, at Shir Tikvah
- Collaborative program April 4 at Beth El, one of several programs at a variety of synagogues on being welcoming to LGBTQ community
- Torah Class retreat will be last weekend of March, and starting discussions for one-year-out and two-year-out Bnai Mitzvah planning
- Judy and Rabbi met with the new Leadership Advisory Committee

L'taken Report (Judy)

Scott Newman took our students to Washington DC for URJ RAC event this past weekend. Judy read the letter that Scott sent to the parents afterwards. She also read a letter in return from one of the parents.

Membership and Administration Report (Beth)

- No recent changes in membership and administration (263 member households)
- What she has been working on
 - Working on a lot of the same things as the Rabbi, in different ways
 - LGBTQ event April 4
 - Rabbi Nancy Flam – part of reunion of group for Jewish spirituality – Kivvun 3
 - Purim – will see a flyer soon for events
 - Beth Elders event April 7 – “sexy Sephardic Jew”
 - April 13 – Event we will be discussing next
 - Two meetings with Bnai Mitzvah parents today
 - Working with Jim on tracking and managing capital budget investments

- Working with Craig Ross on installing new sound equipment for Shabbat Rinah particularly but also usable for other events and applications
- Ongoing work in security and safety – went to workshop sponsored by CJP and JEMS (Jewish Emergency Management System) at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham – so will have report on security for next month’s meeting

Budgeting and Financial Report (Mike Joachim)

- Mike reviewed the year-to-date financial situation vs. budget.
 - Revenue looks like it will come in below (worse than) budgeted
 - Expenses look like they will come in close to budget
 - So deficit is likely to be worse than budgeted
 - Request to VPs: review their sections of the budget in detail, and create a forecast of how their expenses will finish the year relative to budget, and then create an estimate for next fiscal year
- Big picture
 - Most of our revenue comes from membership dues and fundraising
 - Most of our spending is on staff compensation – equal to about 85% of dues and fundraising revenue
 - Main source of funds for closing deficit: about \$35,000 from Carob Tree Fund endowment earnings plus Yahrzeit fund – so we need to close the gap between spending and dues+fundraising to about \$35,000, not all the way to zero
 - Larger budget gaps we cover by drawing down our other non-endowment funds – but those amounts are not unlimited.
- Fund progression
 - If you look at our projected deficits and our available funds, we will drain those funds in 3-5 years at our current pace
 - Purpose is to start the Board thinking about this situation before we get into the detailed budgeting process

Plans for Spring Fundraiser Concert (Ellen Glickman-Simon and Helen Shik)

- “Festival of the Arts” – see attached Announcement
- Will be a combination of social and fundraising – meant to be a big splash that draws people from outside Beth El as well as members
 - Guy Mendilow Trio
 - “Forgotten Voices: An Evening of Women’s Songs and Stories”
 - He performs in large concert halls as well as in synagogues
 - Date: Saturday night, April 13, 2019 (doors open 7:00)
 - Tickets \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door, \$25 for students
- Aim to fill the sanctuary – roughly 200 people
- Request to Board members to call their lists to let them know about this event and why it is special – check the Guy Mendilow website first to get a better sense of what this will be

Reports and Attachments

- Announcement – Tickets now on sale for the 1st Annual Arts at Beth El Event
- Adult Education Report – March 2019
- Beth El Metrics for BOD – March 2019
- Fund Progression – March 2019
- Inclusion February 2019 Board Report
- Rabbi's Board Report – March 2019
- Ritual Committee Report – March 2019
- Tikkun Olam Report – March 2019
- Treasurer's Report through Feb 28 2019