

# Beth El Board Minutes 4/11/2019

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## Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Yaakov Cohn
- Ken Fishman
- Neil Frieband
- Aaron Friedman
- Ellen Glickman-Simon
- Judy Goldberg
- John Harper
- Michael Joachim
- Toby Kopman
- Justin Lewitus
- Cynthia Meyersburg
- Steve Probst
- Lizza Sandoe
- Helen Shik
- Jen Stevens
- Marcos Szydlo
- Susan Tohn
- Roberta Unger

## Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Beth Schine
- Shoni Aronovich
- Gary Bean
- Kath Bean
- Janet Buchwald
- Marla Lewitus
- Scott Newman

## Agenda

- Hebrew with Janet: 10 min
  - Rabbi's report: 5 min
  - Sanctuary Committee update: Gary and Kath Bean, 5 min
  - Membership and administration report: Beth, 5 min
  - Update on Education Programs: Scott 10 min
  - HiBuR report and request: Shoni, 10 min
  - High school report and request: Justin, 5 min
  - High Holiday planning and ticket policy: Toby, 5 min
  - Proposal to allow board members to participate remotely and to appropriate \$300 for camera and microphone: Judy, 10 min
  - EXECUTIVE SESSION
  - Budget forecast and salary discussion for 2019-20: Mike
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- NOTE: Budget Forum is Sunday, April 28 at 11 am
    - Annual meeting is Thursday, June 6 at 7:30 pm

## Board Votes

- HiBuR: That the Board approve the HiBuR program begin spending money to develop the FY19-20 program, in an amount not to exceed \$7,500. Approved unanimously.
- To reappropriate funds saved by making rather than buying dinners for Religious School for use by WASTY. Approved unanimously.
- That Beth El not repeat the 2018 free-High-Holiday-ticket experiment in 2019 and resume charging for High Holiday tickets. Approved unanimously with one abstention.

## **Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)**

### **Rabbi's Report**

- Ritual
  - Another first: First Purim with Beth El
  - Held second Shabbat across the Generations this past Friday night – about 70 participants, mostly Tot Shabbat and empty nesters
  - Save the Date: Friday, May 3 for Siyyum graduation and dinner
- Lifecycle/pastoral: Numerous pastoral meetings and visits – increasing steadily over the past few months
- Community outreach/events
  - Concluded both sessions of URJ Introduction to Judaism classes at Shir Tikva
  - Joined with Inclusion Committee for LGBTQ Jewish Education Collaborative session with other MetroWest congregations
- Programming and education: went on first Torah Class Retreat; final Torah Class session will be on April 28
- Administrative: Leadership Advisory Committee is about to mail a letter to the congregation about mission. Active outreach – get the pulse of the community

### **Kath and Gary Bean – Sanctuary Committee**

- Shared with Board a request to Beth El's members to support four proposed Massachusetts bills to protect residents regardless of immigration status (see attachments)

### **Administration Report (Beth)**

- Membership at 262 (1 resignation)
  - 2 pending resignations
  - 1 pending new-member household
- Fundraiser (Guy Mendilow)
  - \$6,151 in ticket sales plus \$850 to cover other peoples' tickets plus \$2,500 in unspecified donations (\$9,550 total) so far
  - Will need volunteers to reset things in the sanctuary after services Saturday
  - Will use main door; side door will be locked
  - Danny's Wine and Liquors provided the alcohol for this at a great price – they are very supportive of Beth El and other local religious institutions
- Had electrician today replacing bulbs, doing minor repairs, checking out our outside lighting

### **Education (Scott)**

- Only a few Sundays left in the current school year
- Marla Lewitus is going to be the new VP of Youth and Family Education
- Middle schoolers are building raised gardens

- We made a focus this year to more strongly incorporate Tikkun Olam in the school year. As part of this, we will be buying and filling backpacks for participants in the Medical Program for September – will solicit entire congregation for supplies for the backpacks.

### **HiBuR (Israel Partnership Program for the High School) (Shoni)**

- Are now done with this year's program
  - Took 14 teens to Israel including all four of our 10<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Seven synagogues participated
  - When the Israelis were here, they visited all the participating synagogues
  - HiBuR sent 2 Rabbis and an Educator to Israel this year with the group (from 3 different synagogues; Shoni did not go)
- Both CJP and Hebrew College have become fans of the HiBuR program
- Article in Shalom Magazine on HiBuR coming out and online
- Balanced this year's HiBuR budget (\$70,000 revenue and expense)
- See vote (above) authorizing spending to prepare for next year's HiBuR program before formal approval of Beth El's budget for the new fiscal year.

### **High School Report and Request (Justin Lewitus)**

Students saved money this year by preparing dinner together instead of buying pizza, and did this four times. This concept was developed by the students. They arrive for Religious School early and work together to prepare it. See vote (above) to approve reassigning the saved dinner funds for use by WASTY (our high school youth group).

### **Ritual (Toby)**

High Holiday tickets. We offered free tickets this past year. It felt very good, but we did not attract any incremental new members – even though we did strong follow-up with people who received free tickets. See vote (above) to not repeat free tickets next year.

### **Nominating Committee Proposal**

Nominating Committee has proposed that we allow Board Members to participate in Board Meetings remotely. This would enable members who cannot attend a meeting (travel, disability, etc.) to participate.

Discussion was more about a technology like Zoom conference-calling rather than live-streaming. There were some concerns about security, including issues like using hotel WiFi. Would we need to include a VPN?

Board agreed that we would like to have someone investigate the choice of technology and put this on the agenda for next meeting.

### **Budgeting and Financial Report (Mike Joachim)**

- Board went into Executive Session to discuss the current and draft budgets.

## Reports and Attachments

- Email to be Sent by Sanctuary Committee – April 2019
- HiBuR Report to Board Meeting – April 2019
- Ritual Committee Report – April 2019
- Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project – Event Flyer