

October 29, 2019

Temple Beth El Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting (Approved)

Covenantal Community
Commitment to Diversity
Caring Community
Warm and Welcoming
Jewish Living Made Accessible and Relevant
Fosters Dynamic Spiritual Growth
Focus on Learning
Focus on Community
Pursuing Tikkun Olam, repair of the world

2018-2019 Board Goals:

Communication

Engagement

Philanthropy

Temple Beth El Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for October 29, 2019, APPROVED

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendees: President - Amy Harrington, Executive Vice President – Josh Karter, Vice President of Communications - Michelle Dennis, Secretary – Judy Yokel, Vice President of Operations – Gus Gold, Treasurer/Finance Committee -- Paul Jacobson ,Vice President of Fund Development – Margaret Gordon, Vice President of Engagement – Melody Randel, Vice President of Human Resources-Robyn Slater, Vice President of Education - Shani Ginsburg, Vice President of Social Justice – Ziesel Saunders, Members at Large - Miles Dolinger and Doug Sommerville, Congregant Facilitator - Nathaniel Deutsch

Non-voting members: Associate Rabbi – Shifra Weiss-Penzias, Executive Director - Tanya Lorien, Engagement Director – Melissa Sunberg

Absent: Immediate past President--Scott Roseman, Senior Rabbi – Paula Marcus, Vice Presidet of Fund Developent—Margaret Gordon

Visitors: Rose Ashford, Social Action Committee

1. Roll call and approval of agenda..... 2 min.
2. Drash/Jewish Journey – Gus Gold 10 min.

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Gus’s grandparents came from Russia & Romania during WW1. His parents lived in NY, and were involved with Harlem Hebrew Institute. The family moved to CA in 1948 when Gus was 3. Gus’s father was a podiatrist and couldn’t work for 6 months until he could pass the CA test. The family lived in subsidized housing for a period of time, with no shul to be found nearby. Gus’s parents searched out a group of families and built their own Temple, the Woodruff Jewish Community Center. It became a full-blown temple over a few years, with a very connected Jewish community. Gus’s high school only had 4 Jewish kids, but he joined the Temple youth group and met all the Jewish kids. Gus was an all-American athlete, but always stayed connected to the Jewish community. He met his wife at Jewish sleep away camp. During the Vietnam War, Gus joined the army and served in Thailand. There was a Jewish chaplain who came for the weekend once a month, and he became connected to that chaplain and other Jewish soldiers. He once attended a very powerful Jewish rededication ceremony in the Mekong River. After discharge, Gus and his wife moved to Santa Cruz and found TBE. They have been involved with TBE ever since, and Gus’s energy and dedication to the Jewish community is now stronger than ever.

3. Approval of minutes from September 24, 2019..... 2 min.

APPROVED with addendum to ensure that the minutes state that the Board passed the consent agenda. This actually was already in the draft minutes.

4.Shelter proposal.....15 min.

Rose Ashford was present to represent the Social Action Committee’s proposal to provide shelter at TBE on two Thursday nights per month. The proposal was previously sent out to Board members. Under this program, 12 to 20 homeless people would be sheltered at TBE and both dinner and breakfast would be provided by TBE members. Alternatively, the meals could potentially be provided by a church at the TBE site. As the program currently operates at various churches, the group would be supervised by its own group leader, and no one from TBE would be present. The group would leave TBE by 6:30 a.m. the next day. A letter of recommendation was provided by Rev. Tracy Wells Miller of Episcopal Church in Aptos, which participates in the program. Board members engaged in extensive discussion of the proposal, including the following key points/issues:

- Providing shelter and food for the homeless is a worthy endeavor and fits within TBE’s social justice emphasis.
- Concern that the Mazon project lacks sufficient volunteers, and that this project might hurt Mazon’s ability to recruit the additional volunteers it needs, or even draw volunteers away from Mazon.
- Security and supervision: This was the major concern. Churches have not been targeted by violent actors the way synagogues have been. TBE has a security system that is

based on motion sensors, which would have to be turned off to accommodate the homeless community. This is a huge concern. Members expressed that they would want a TBE member to sleep over in order to supervise and safeguard the building. They also expressed that they thought we would need to pay for a security guard to be present all night.

- To address the security and supervision issues, funding would be needed. We do not have funds budgeted for this purpose in FY 19-20.
- In order to participate, we would need to see a group of volunteers and a larger commitment from the Social Action Committee. At this point, we do not know that there would be sufficient commitment from TBE members.
- TBE is currently down a janitorial staff. This position would need to be filled before we could consider participating.
- Liability and insurance issues: Not clear how this would be handled by both TBE and the shelter program. Rose said she would research how the program handles currently handles this.
- Zoning: Does the zoning for TBE allow for this project?

After discussion, no decision was reached. It was decided that the Board would talk further about this proposal on the Tent and at the November Board meeting.

6. Membership Update – Melissa Sunberg 5 min.

We budgeted for \$794,000 member dollars this fiscal year, and we are currently at \$730,000. We still have 87 people who have not yet renewed. Melissa had a list of about 16 families for Board members to call if they know them. Sign-up sheet was passed around for this purpose.

3. Questions on ED & Finance Reports – Tanya Lorien/Paul Jacobson 10 min.

Overall, we are exceeding income performance especially in cemetery sales and particularly nonmember sales at Soquel. Membership dollars are on track as of the time of year. Personnel funding is almost spot on budget. Some things are over budget but will smooth out over the year. High Holiday income is lower than anticipated, we are but looking at various events to supplement that amount. Paul stated that we need to review accounts receivable, money that is owed to us and hasn't been collected from years in the past.

4. Board sign-ups & Update: Bima/Greeter & D'var Torah – Michelle Dennis 5 min.

Sign-ups were done for November.

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9. Rabbinic Remarks – Rabbi Shifra 10 min.

Rabbi Shifra reported that the preschool is planning to add a Kindergarten program next year, which is exciting. She stated that the recent Rock Shabbat was moving and beautiful, as was the Mazon dinner. The temple school Pizza in the Hut event was attended by 120 people, and was very vital and vibrant. Rabbi Shifra feels our mission is to revitalize people. She feels really good about how we are doing.

0. Closed Session..... 10 min.

A closed session was held.

Adjourned 9:00 pm

Reminders: Dec. 17th 6:00-8:00 round table potluck at Amy’s

December 18th Alan Miller Memorial at TBE