

C O N G R E G A T I O N

Brith Shalom
Board of Trustees- Meeting Minutes

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| Date | 16 January 2020 | Time | 7:00 – 8:30 |
| Staff | Rabbi Ranon Teller, Melissa Magenheim | Guests | Dr. Josh Furman, Marge Mayer |
| In Attendance | Rhoda Goldberg, Mitch Kreindler, Karen Bernstein, Steven Goldberger, David Lewis, Michael Drob, Erin Pomerantz, Michael Zlotnick, Steve Rubin, Lori Actor, Amir Halevy, Ellen Fiesinger, Jonah Paransky Absent: ElJay Waldman, Debbie Karakowsky; Ron Klein, Denise Mosk, Elyse Evans, Debi Mishael, Lori Slater, Mark Jason | | |
| Next Meeting Date | 20 February 2020 | | |

| ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| No. | ITEM | DESCRIPTION |
| 1 | Jewish Archive draft agreement | Draft “Deed of Gifts” provided to the Board by Dr. Josh Furman. |
| 2 | Resolutions before the Board | |
| 2a | Resolution for Archives | Motion to authorize donation of the Brith Shalom archives to Rice University. |
| 2b | Resolution for Security Committee | Motion to create an ad-hoc Security Committee |

| | |
|---|------|
| TZEDAKAH COLLECTED AT LAST MONTH’S MEETING | \$21 |
|---|------|

| MEETING ACTION ITEMS | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| No. | Action Item | Owner | Date |
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |

| MOTIONS OR DECISIONS MADE | 1ST / 2ND RESULTS |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Approval of Minutes | Bernstein/Actor/unanimous yes |
| | |
| | |

New Business: Brith Shalom archives:

Dr. Josh Furman, founder and Director of The Houston Jewish Community Archive at Rice University, approached the Board about donating the synagogue’s archives to the project. The project is an outgrowth of Hurricane Harvey, and seeks to collect and preserve the history of Jewish life in Houston.

MEETING MINUTES- Board of Directors

Beth Yeshurun and UOS have already donated their archives, and HCRJ is in talks with Dr. Furman. His intention is to also expand the collection into surrounding communities, Jewish-owned businesses, and individual family records. He also spoke of the opportunity for making elements of the synagogue's history more widely available, such as Rabbi Cahana's involvement with the Civil Rights movement.

Dr. Furman explained the process of delivery and processing of the archives.

Answers to questions from Board members:

Materials become the property of the Archive, as a "Deed of Gifts"; however, materials may be loaned back to the synagogue for special events. Physical ownership is transferred to the Archive, but copyright remains with the synagogue. Processes are in place to maintain confidentiality for appropriate materials (e.g., Board Meeting minutes of sensitive meetings; personnel matters). Part of the agreement is a provision detailing what is to be done with materials deemed unsuitable for the Archive. Preservation/storage/ongoing costs are borne by the Archive and Rice University. A provision in the agreement notes what is to be done if the Archive project comes to an end. Digitization is currently for preservation and not for access – text is not indexed, for example.

Question from Lori Actor: How much communication is there between this project and other organizations/projects? Answer: there are several efforts to link to other Jewish History archives; for example, to the new museum in New Orleans.

Marge Mayer has spoken with a number of older members of the synagogue and gotten an "enthusiastic reception" to the donation. She has been working with Joyce to organize and compile the current Birth Shalom archives, including 5 scrapbooks compiled by Naomi Rosner with the earliest history of Birth Shalom. There are still several boxes of uncompiled materials to be organized. Marge's intent is to donate the original materials, while keeping digital copies at the synagogue for our history and potentially display on the monitors.

Two brochures were handed out during the meeting. One contains information on the process of donating materials to an archive:

<https://www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-orgrecs>

The other contained information regarding the Houston Jewish History Archive project specifically:

<http://jewishstudies.rice.edu/houston-jewish-history-archive>

A motion to authorize the President to enter into an agreement with the Houston Jewish History Archive project to donate the synagogue's archives was read (see attachment 2a). Per Board of trustees policy and the CBS Constitution, the Board will discuss and vote on this motion at the next meeting.

Reports and Updates:

Rabbi Teller: Lots of baby namings over the last month. Rabbi Teller participated in the vigil for the Bellaire High School shooting victim César Cortés, held at Evelyn's Park. The Gala Shabbat is coming, and the financial goals have been met. Ruach has been incorporating new musicians, including 6 teen musicians and 3 dads. CBS Womens' Shabbat will be incorporated into the upcoming regular Shabbat service, and the Sheena Memorial Award will be announced (editor's note: that recipient was Fran Florsheimer). The 1st grade Kabbalat Torah will also take place.

Financial Report:

In the future, the financial committee intends to provide the financial report materials prior to the meeting so that the Secretary can distribute them with the agenda for the following meeting. Note that the report is as of the date of the meeting and does not look forward to anticipated revenue, collections, or expenditures (other than as carried in the budget).

Ruach and Kiddush donations: Rhoda Goldberg encourages the Board members to donate, as an indication to the rest of the congregation of the Board's commitment to the synagogue.

Expenses have NOT increased, which is a very positive sign.

Other old business:

Directory: this effort has been reset due to the resignation of the project chair. An effort will be made to combine the directory with the website. The rollout will be focused around the religious school, and will constitute a sort of yearbook or Year In Review (vs. Purim, as in the past). The advertising price sheet has also been revised downward, which is expected to increase the volume and therefore total revenue. No pictures will be included in the print directory (partially because of the lack of participation in the picture days), but photos are intended to be incorporated into the online directory.

Leadership Development Committee: The committee is 80% formed, and anticipates moving forward in the next weeks. The intent is to have a set of recommendations for the Board by May or June.

Other new business:

Security Committee: Rhoda Goldberg has proposed that the Board form a new ad-hoc Security Committee. The work required to ensure security has expanded beyond the scope of the Facilities Planning Committee, and FPC Chair Ron Klein has endorsed the creating of the new committee.

A motion to authorize the formation of an ad-hoc Security Committee was read (see attachment 2b). Per Board of trustees policy and the CBS Constitution, the Board will discuss and vote on this motion at the next meeting.

Good and Welfare:

Sarah Gayle thanked the Rabbi and Cantor for making their son Jacob's Bar Mitzvah a success. Jacob was diagnosed with autism at age 3 and they thought he might never be able to have a Bar Mitzvah.

4 scholars-in-residence will be coming to Brith Shalom, at no cost to the synagogue.

Rhoda Goldberg and Rabbi Teller participated in the "Food not Bombs" event, feeding the homeless.