

Temple Isaiah
Board Minutes
October 17, 2017

Present: Shoshana Barer, Sue Borson, Larry Fechter, Carol Fragen, Peter Gordon, Richard Jeffery, Mitchell Karp, Ron Martinez, Gary Miller and Christopher Spellman

Non-Voting: Rabbi David Lazar, Douglas Morton, Executive Director

Guests: Brent Ortner and Johannes Rheinheimer

Excused: Adam Gilbert

1. D'var Torah – Rabbi encouraged us to all speak more positively. Rabbi requested that people refrain from discussing his salary and health.
2. Rabbi said that Jews Do the Blues TOO is coming along nicely and costs remain low. David Morgan, Madalina Garza, Soo Borson and Ira Helf are serving on the event committee and have already brought in over \$12,000. Currently expenses are projected to be \$2,185. Once again, the committee is aggressively selling ads.
3. Rabbi stressed Judaism of the 21st Century isn't costing the Temple and is covered by funds earmarked from the Federation and from one of our members.
4. Rabbi will be offering discussions on the book The Sabbath and another class to prepare individuals for conversion. If members can't afford either they can contact Doug Morton for assistance.
5. Addressing High Holiday services, Rabbi commented that he is concerned about continuing with the Kol Nidre Appeal using baskets to collect the pledges and recommended looking at new ways that might work better. Rabbi thanked Doug Morton for arranging Security and working with the ushers, it went better than usual.
6. Larry Fechter wants to see more advertising for the Short Lecture Series and the Twice Blessed Lecture Series.
7. Carol Fragen moved to approve the September minutes as presented, Mitchell Karp seconded, motion passed unanimously.
8. Ron Martinez introduced Brent Ortner who discussed a plan to bring a Substance Use Disorder Program into the Temple. This would be the fourth Jewish Treatment base in the U.S. Shoshana Barer moved and Gary Miller seconded a motioned a motion to pursue further information in placing the faith based rehabilitation clinic in the Temple, motion approved unanimously. pursue further

information with the goal of having a clinic here, Gary, seconded, approved unanimously.

9. Christopher Spellman stated that the Executive Committee had met with Ralph Laks who was interested in considering purchasing the synagogue for \$3.8 million, loaning us funds of approximately \$360,000 at 3.75% interest for a couple years, during which he would decide whether to proceed with a formal purchase offer, and at which time a balloon payment would be due. The congregation would have the option to lease back space in the event of purchase. Christopher also mentioned that some Board members are looking for an assurance that the Temple will remain off the market for a year or two. Mr. Laks said that during the bridge loan period he would not carry maintenance. The Executive Committee recommended that he put his offer in writing so that it could be presented to the Board.
10. A question was asked if we have done an appraisal; this has been done in the past. Soo Borson clarified to the Board that the building isn't currently on the market.
11. There was discussion that Bob Fey has said that we have a commitment for \$90,000 from donors for one year provided we don't put the Temple on the market for a year. It was agreed that Harold Matzner would cover the hole from last year. Christopher Spellman stated that Mr. Matzner plans to cover the entire 2016-2017 deficit as soon as we have the compilation finalized and returned from the accountant. The Board would like to see if MMGC can have the review by the November Board Meeting. Doug Morton agreed to work with MMGC to accomplish this goal.
12. Doug Morton reported that with 143 members and 16 new members, we now have a total of 159 families. High Holiday ticket sales were budgeted for \$9,000 and \$11,220 sold. Kol Nidre pledges came to \$16,971, significantly lower than usual. Doug Morton stated that we'll send out the follow-up letter to those who have not yet made their Kol Nidre pledge. In looking at the future, perhaps we have people leave their appeal before they come in to the meeting. The question isn't should we collect money at Yom Kippur, the questions are about how it's done and should there be a speech? Peter Gordon moved and Gary Miller seconded a motion to form a committee to research another way to collect Kol Nidre pledges. The Board agreed to further discuss this issue during the November Board meeting.
13. Richard Jeffery informed the board that the Finance Committee went through a budget update process with new numbers that are currently being input. One of the decisions Richard and Bob Fey made was that we are going to print both cash and accrual reports so whomever can look at either. Richard is also going to start meetings with Larea Pettersen to input invoices into the system because it was discovered that there were a number of items charged to the wrong item account.
14. After the question was raised by Ron Martinez, Soo Borson moved and Gary Miller seconded a motion that once the 2016-2017 accounting review is done and

the deficit is collected from Mr. Matzner, permission allowing Bob Fey continuous access to Quickbooks be revoked. Motion carried.

15. A discussion took place surrounding a more formal exit interview for people who elect not to renew their membership. Shoshana recommended that when people drop out they receive a call from the Rabbi. Larry requested a list of those who have not renewed from last year as of now (updated list). Larry commented that the membership committee is trying to be proactive and get people to feel like they belong here, which should result in higher membership retention.
16. The Stay Committee report was given by Johannes Rheinheimer. He has compiled a list of ideas as to how we can stay in the building and bring in revenue. Destiny Church is on the table to rent. Christopher Spellman reported that they are looking to rent weekly to Destiny Church starting in January. The Rehab Program is on the table. The list will be expanding and separated into groups, numbers added, etc. There was a list handed out that included a JCC Substance Abuse Rehab. Johannes stated that the committee is meeting more frequently than it had been in the past.
17. The Board agreed that the \$90,000 promised to the temple per Bob Fey is nice but not enough to solidify a long term "stay" decision as it will not cover the projected deficit.
18. Fundraising – Peter Gordon cancelled the Opera idea. Jews Do the Blues Too and Modernism Tours are two events that are coming up to bring in an estimated \$20,000 - \$25,000. Mitchell Karp is planning to do a Modernism Fashion show at the Temple, Modernism takes 20%. Mitchell Karp will be working on this idea further. There is a Modernism Committee with Rabbi Nick, Chuck Steinman, Gail Kanter, etc.
19. Thursday will be an Ice Cream Social for our senior members coordinated by our Membership Committee.
20. Nominating Committee needs to be established as quickly as possible. Gary agreed to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Gary said that his first action will be to put out a memo to see who is interested in continuing on the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Morton
Executive Director