

**Kehillat Beth Israel  
Board of Directors  
May 21, 2020  
Teleconference  
Minutes**

**Present:**

Ilana Albert-Novick  
Jay Amdur  
Mordecai Brodt  
Norm Ferkin

David Lyman  
Joel Sachs  
Judah Silverman  
Harvey Slack

Harland Tanner  
Eric Weiner  
Helen Zipes

**Secretary:**

Jodi Gitter

**Clergy Present:**

Cantor Jason Green  
Rabbi Eytan Kenter  
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

**Staff Present:**

Rena Garshowitz

**Regrets:**

Yossi Bokhaut  
Donna Strauss

**1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1.1 Call to Order and Welcome**

**Judah Silverman**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**1.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**Judah Silverman**

None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.

**1.3 D'var Torah**

**Rabbi Eytan Kenter**

**1.4 Moment of Silence to Commemorate Those Congregants Who Have Passed Away Since the Last Board Meeting** **Judah Silverman**

Barry Trainoff (former Executive Director of Beth Shalom)  
Nathan Godfrey  
Shirley Melnick (Feinberg)  
Robin J. Hill  
Michael Penso  
Yetta Yanofsky

**1.5 Approval of the Agenda of May 21, 2020** **Judah Silverman**

**A motion was made by Helen Zipes and seconded by Harvey Slack to approve the agenda.**

**The motion was carried.**

**1.6 Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors** **Judah Silverman**

**A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Harvey Slack to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors for the meeting held on April 23, 2020.**

**The motion was carried.**

**1.7 Business Arising from Previous Minutes** **Judah Silverman**

None

**1.8 Breakout Session**

Board members were organized into small groups in order for everyone to have an opportunity to check in with one another.

**2.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**2.1 Executive Director's Written Statement Respecting the Status of Staff Salaries and Remittances to Government** **Rena Garshowitz**

Rena presented the statement for employee wages to the Board.

**2.2 Monthly Financial Update** **Jay Amdur**

Jay will present this next month.

### **2.3 Update on Ottawa Kosher Food Bank Covid19 Finances**

**Rena Garshowitz**

- March saw a major influx of donations for Passover and to assist with Covid-19 needs.
- Bingo revenue is down.
- There has been an increase in the amount of gift cards being given out now on a monthly basis (rather than every other month) and the amounts we are giving has increased. Rena will begin to trend these needs when April numbers come in.
- Some food distribution has begun to take place. Increase in demand by 25% since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Due to the many donations, KBI remains in a robust position to be able to assist as needed.

### **3.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

#### **3.1 Operating budget for fiscal year 2020/21**

**Jay Amdur**

- Jay reported that a new version (version 2.2 draft) of the budget has been prepared by the Finance Committee and shared with the Board members prior to the meeting.
- Adjustments to the budget were made as a result of lower building operational costs and some higher current operating costs. This slightly increased the expected annual shortfall.
- The Comparative Dues Analysis Report was also adjusted accordingly to reflect the revised annual shortfall.
- Rabbi Kenter said that we could expect a \$30,000 to \$40,000 drop in dues revenue due to the loss of reserved seating during the High Holy Days

**A motion was made by Jay Amdur and seconded by Eric Weiner to approve the proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2020/21.**

**All were in favour and the motion was carried.**

#### **3.2 Other Business raised by any Director requiring Board discussion or authority.**

None

### **4.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE**

#### **4.1 Covid-19 Virtual Programming Survey results**

**Jay Amdur**

- The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive in terms of the shul's prayer sessions and programming.
- The Board discussed how best to address some of the feedback the shul received.

#### **4.2 High Holy Days update, including access to the shul**

**Rabbi Kenter**

- The building will still likely be closed, and therefore Rabbi Kenter presented a "basket of offerings" and any combination is possible:
  - Live-streaming services
  - Access for some into the building: How will this look?
  - Gatherings outside to hear the shofar
  - Pre-recorded segments for everyone as well as for targeted groups (ex. Sermon)
  - Pre-recorded Kol Nidre
  - The encouragement of individual prayer, time with G-d, and self-reflection
- Rabbi Kenter said that members will hear about these High Holy Day plans in June.

#### **4.3 Other business raised by any director**

- David Lyman suggested that the Board entertain the idea of "porch visits."
- Rena asked who would have access to KBI's online services. Rabbi Kenter said that:
  - All members and associate members would receive a link.
  - For a nominal fee, a member of another synagogue could receive the link.
  - Non-members would not be turned away; Clergy would engage with them.
- Jay asked about what equipment would be necessary to implement the aforementioned virtual programs. Rabbi Kenter responded that the monies already identified for High Holy Day expenses (chair rentals, visiting clergy, etc.) would no longer be necessary and could therefore be used should the purchase of additional technology be necessary.

### **5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

#### **5.1 Sustaining KBI update**

**Eric Weiner**

- Eric reiterated that his committee will be seeking donations to offset the anticipated donations shortfall.

#### **5.2 Other business raised by any director**

- Judah spoke about cultivating a culture of giving among our congregants and that Board members should consider redirecting their pledges for the "Building Our Future" campaign to the new "Sustaining KBI" campaign.

6.0 **IN CAMERA**

7.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.**

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM.