

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
June 18, 2020
Teleconference
Minutes**

Present:

Ilana Albert-Novick
Jay Amdur
Yossi Bokhaut
Mordecai Brodt

Norm Ferkin
David Lyman
Joel Sachs
Judah Silverman

Harvey Slack
Donna Strauss
Harland Tanner
Helen Zipes

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

Staff Present:

Rena Garshowitz

Regrets:

Eric Weiner

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**

Murray John Palmer
Stella Beck
Shirley Schwartz
Helen Flesher

- 1.5 Approval of the Agenda of June 18, 2020** **Judah Silverman**

A motion was made by Helen Zipes and seconded by Ilana Albert-Novick 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 May 20, 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 to check in on one another and to share “good news” stories about the shul.

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

- o As of the end of April, we are on-track budget-wise.
- o Government wage-subsidy program has been implemented
- o Very low building-maintenance costs

3.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 Hebrew Free Loan Proposal

Jay Amdur

- o Jay proposed that KBI make an application to the Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA) in the amount of \$50,000 in anticipation of a potential membership dues shortfall.
- o The repayment schedule for said loan is agreed upon by HFLA and KBI. Repayments begin 3-5 years after the loan is obtained and can be repaid over a 10-year period of time.

A motion was made by Jay Amdur and seconded by Harvey Slack that KBI apply for and enter into an agreement with the Hebrew Free Loan Association for a \$50,000 loan to enable membership subsidies for members who are unable to pay for their membership dues for the coming fiscal year.

Discussion ensued:

- o The Finance and Audit Committee has discussed the possibility that if KBI does benefit from a Hebrew Free Loan, perhaps during more robust years, KBI can donate to the HFLA.
- o Mordecai asked if other synagogues have asked for such a loan and Rabbi Kenter responded that we are certainly not the first. Rabbi Kenter went on to explain that the HFLA prefers to lend a "larger" sum of money to an organization rather than to receive numerous requests from that organization's members asking for smaller, individual loans.
- o We are anticipating a large number of members who may need assistance this coming fiscal year and others who may be reticent to join because of the virtual component and not having a physical shul to enter; Helen explained that applying for this loan is a proactive measure.

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 Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School Proposal

Rabbi Kenter

- As we already know, KBI does not currently have an afternoon school.
- Ottawa Talmud Torah (OTT) has reached out again, and has asked KBI to develop a shared agreement about what the partnership may look like. OTT has yet to reply to KBI's proposal which includes:
 - OTT would have fiduciary responsibility.
 - KBI's Senior Rabbi would have educational oversight of the program and curriculum.
- The Board endorsed Rabbi Kenter pursuing these discussions.
- Rabbi Kenter will report back when more is known, and OTT responds.

4.2 Other business raised by any director

None

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION AND VOTE

5.1 Sustaining KBI update

Helen Zipes

- Helen updated the Board that various members have been approached to make a donation and virtually everyone who has been approached has committed. Approximately \$40 000 has been donated.

5.2 Other business raised by any director

- David asked where KBI is at in terms of the live streaming that will likely be necessary in order for High Holy Day services to take place.
 - Rena replied that various live streaming firms are being explored and that KBI should be ready for its first "dry-run" in about a month; the target date to have the live streaming in place is August 1st.

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM.