

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
July 16, 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
Eric Weiner
Helen Zipes

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

Staff Present:

Elisheva Brantz
Rena Garshowitz

Regrets:

Harland Tanner

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order and Welcome

Judah Silverman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Deborah Zuker

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

Sandra Shapiro Goldman Pollock
Carol-Sue Shapiro
Elizabeth Szirtes
Rhoda Bodnoff

1.5 Approval of the Agenda of July 16, 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 Jay Amdur to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors for the meeting held on June 18, 2020.

The motion was carried.

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

With respect to item 3.1 from June 18, 2020 minutes: **Hebrew Free Loan Proposal:**

- There was 1 abstention (all were not in favour, as previously indicated in the minutes).
- Barry Nadolnik from that organization had initially responded positively to KBI's request but also attached numerous conditions for the loan's approval (ex. guarantees, financial statements, post-dated cheques).
- Judah suggested that if the Hebrew Free Loan Association is willing to waive some of their conditions then KBI could move to an agreement.
- Yossi said that providing our financial statements should be sufficient.
- Judah will report back to the Board.

With respect to item 4.1 from June 18, 2020 minutes: **Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School Proposal:**

- Judah said that a number of conversations have taken place between KBI and Ottawa Talmud Torah (OTT).
- KBI developed a proposal; OTT responded but did not address the suggestions KBI included in the proposal.
- A revised proposal was prepared by Rabbi Kenter. KBI would provide the educational and curriculum piece and OTT would pay rent for use of the space as they would like to maintain their independence.

- Currently, we are working through the rent amount.

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**

- We are 11/12 through our fiscal year.
- Personnel costs are down, as are building maintenance costs
- We are under-spending in terms of what we had budgeted re: kiddushes, breakfasts and dinners due to the pandemic.
- The annual audit will be completed in the next 3 months.

2.3 Membership and Sustaining KBI Update **Rena Garshowitz**

- Approximately \$55,000 has been pledged thus far, most of that by direct solicitation, but some through people adding a donation onto their membership renewal payments.
- The committee will now be reaching out to a second group of potential donors.
- Eric asked how membership dues payments are going. Rena responded that approximately 20% of our members have renewed so far but it is still early in the renewal process.

3.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

None

4.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Plan regarding in-person services and programming **Rabbi Kenter**

- As we already know, KBI does not currently have an afternoon school.
- KBI, as per the guidelines provided by Ottawa Public Health, has moved to providing services indoors for a maximum of 50 people.
- Congregants have aliyot from their seats rather than coming up to the Torah.
- Congregants are to remain 150-200 ft away from the bimah.
- Congregants attending via Zoom are also counted as part of the minyan.
- Registration forms for in-person attendance ask congregants about their personal health, etc.

- Rabbi Kenter reported that overwhelmingly, the congregation supports our pace in moving forward.
- A round-table Board discussion ensued where every Board member was given a chance to agree or share a different opinion about KBI's approach to in-person prayer gatherings; all Board members agree with the approach KBI has adopted.
- Donna asked if Yizkor books would be prepared for the High Holy Days. Rabbi Kenter responded that there will be a soft-copy version and that some hard-copies would be made available for those who request it.
- Rabbi Kenter presented the working document that KBI clergy and staff have underway for the High Holy Day prayers and programming. It is packed with programs both in-person and virtual.
- By mid August, KBI's live streaming technology will be tested. By the end of August, members will receive a program guide.
- One objective is to run more than 1 version of an event that more than 45-50 people want to attend.
- There will be no in-person services for the following 4 services: both mornings of Rosh Hashana, Kol Nidre and the morning of Yom Kippur as the number of congregants who want to attend these services in-person is unmanageable. The Clergy will live stream those 4 services.
- David suggested that perhaps congregants can gather in outside areas as well as allow 50 people to gather inside for a live stream service on the 4 aforementioned occasions. This approach may enable a "togetherness" opportunity.
- Rabbi Kenter said that it is complicated for the shul to coordinate that.
- Rabbi Zuker suggested that we focus on the live streaming for those 4 services, coupled with the at-home experience.
- Rabbi Kenter suggested that we use this year for personal growth, personal prayer and a more introspective experience.

4.2 Board expectations regarding membership follow-up

Judah Silverman

Judah will be asking Board members to call and reach out to members who have not yet renewed. Ilana suggested that even members who have renewed already can be called and thanked.

4.3 Other business raised by any director

None

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION AND VOTE

5.1 September Board meeting date

Judah Silverman

- Judah has requested that we shift the date for the September meeting to Thursday, September 24, 2020.
- No one objected.

- Additionally, the AGM has been pencilled in for October 5, 2020.

5.2 Other business raised by any director

None

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM.