

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
January 28, 2021
Zoom Meeting
Minutes**

Present:

Ilana Albert-Novick
Jay Amdur
Yossi Bokhaut
Mordecai Brodt
Norm Ferkin

David Lyman
Victor Rabinovitch
Jeremy Rudin
Judah Silverman
Donna Straus

Harland Tanner
Eric Weiner
Madelaine Werier
Helen Zipes

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Rabbi Eytan Kenter
Rabbi Deborah Zuker
Cantor Jason Green

Staff Present:

Elisheva Brantz

Regrets:

None

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order and Welcome

Judah Silverman

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 /**

Lester Aronson
Barry Baker
Dorene Hurtig
Laurence Kaminsky
Zivan Saper
Agneta Schatteles
Melvyn Schwey
David Silverman
Herbert Zagerman

1.5 Approval of the Agenda of January 28, 2021 **Judah Silverman**

A motion was made by Helen Zipes and seconded by Eric Weiner to approve the agenda.

All were in favour. 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 Norm Ferkin to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors for the meeting held on November 26, 2020.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

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

None

2.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- Elisheva presented the statement for employee wages to the Board.

2.2 Monthly Financial Update – December 2020 **Jay Amdur**

- We are at the 50% mark of the fiscal year.
- Occupancy costs remain down.
- Marketing and Communication is way up due to the rebranding of the website (2 different companies were consulted). We are approximately \$9,000 over budget on this item.
- The investment market has been down; but the markets are beginning to rebound.

- All of the donation pledges have been received in full or in post-dated commitments (credit cards and/or post-date cheques).
- Victor asked about programming costs. That budget was slashed due to Covid. Some revenue has come in from programming as people sometimes donate when they sign up for a virtual program.
- Norm inquired about the fundraising revenue/column and Judah explained that that income was from the special appeal.
- The OKFB is maintaining 100% of all requests and needs.
- Norm praised Dahlia Milech, OKFB's Manager, for her outstanding organizational skills, and her tremendous team of volunteers.

3.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 Other business raised by any Director requiring Board decision or authority

- None

4.0 REPORTING OPTIONS WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Application to CBSO Legacy Fund

Judah Silverman

- Judah crafted an application for financial assistance to the Beth Shalom Legacy Fund. There were five parts to his request:
 1. The Sustaining KBI goal was \$100K and we have reached a little more than \$90K. In order to reach our goal, Judah suggested that the CBSOLF could match the missing \$10,000 amount.
 2. There is a need to purchase additional technology for the shul to better deliver online programming, which includes: a 2nd live stream for multiple programs at the same time as well as some improved equipment for better recording and sound. Judah requested \$10,000 to cover this expense.
 3. One of the undocumented liabilities incurred by KBI was the existence of undocumented letters confirming that the bearer had already paid for the opening and closing of their burial plot. This item recently surfaced when KBI was presented with one of these letters and was required to pay Jewish Memorial Gardens for the opening and closing. KBI does not know how many of these letters exist but estimates are that a "few dozen" might exist. As this is a liability from one of the legacy shuls, Judah requested that the CBSOLF offset these costs for the recent case (\$2,500) and to have a reserve of \$7,500 in place in case other letters are brought forward.
 4. Additionally, Judah requested an additional \$5,000 for members who may have accidentally let their membership lax and need to "member up" when a death occurs.
 5. The final request was for funds to offset KBI's Mishloach Manot with a branded mug. This request was for \$2,000.
- In total, the request for financial assistance was for \$37,000.

- Discussion ensued about how the CBSOLF operates, its terms, how often it convenes, and its financial dispersal policy.

4.2 Other business raised by any director

- None

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION AND VOTE

5.1 Committee Reports Update

Victor Rabinovitch

- David Lyman, Jeremy Rudin, Victor Rabinovitch, and Judah Silverman will be helping to define the Shul's committee structure, ensuring consistency and their ability to make decisions.
- They will be meeting with each committee's Chair.
- David mentioned that he would like to see the return of each committee presenting a report at every Board meeting.

5.2 Committee Updates

- Norm presented on behalf of the Life and Legacy Committee.
 - KBI has secured 17 Letters of Intent.
 - When we get to 18, we qualify for the next level of incentives.

5.3 Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)

Madelaine Werier

- Madelaine spoke about February being Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM).
- She spoke about our obligations, both moral and spiritual, to educate ourselves about people with disabilities and our obligation to accommodate them and to be more inclusive.
- Madelaine will chair an Inclusion Committee. This committee will ensure that all voices are heard.
- JOIN, Tamir and Federation discussed the online platform that has been created to gather information in a conversational format about people's experiences, hopes and dreams. Madelaine asked Board members to add their voices to the conversation and to read about others' experiences.
- Norm mentioned the physical accommodations KBI has made over the years but still feels that there is a need to go further. The new committee will formalize KBI's protocols.

5.4 Work of the Board – Development

**Judah Silverman
Rabbi Eytan Kenter**

- Judah is looking at next year with a lot of uncertainty. KBI needs some structured approach to fundraising.

- Rabbi Kenter made a presentation pertaining to fundraising whose main message was that required and discretionary giving are both essential for the longer-term viability of our synagogue.
- Discussion ensued about what our post-pandemic synagogue might look like.
- Judah solicited the Board to think about who a suitable candidate may be to chair a Development Committee.

5.5 Other business raised by any director

- Helen mentioned that the Board's minutes have not been posted on the KBI website since June and that committee members' names need updating too.

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM.