

**Kehillat Beth Israel  
Board of Directors  
July 29, 2021  
Zoom Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:**

Ilana Albert-Novick  
Jay Amdur  
Yossi Bokhaut  
Mordecai Brodt

Norm Ferkin  
David Lyman  
Victor Rabinovitch  
Judah Silverman

Donna Strauss  
Harland Tanner  
Eric Weiner  
Madelaine Werier

**Secretary:**

Jodi Gitter

**Clergy Present:**

Cantor Jason Green  
Rabbi Eytan Kenter  
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

**Staff Present:**

Elisheva Brantz

**Regrets:**

Jeremy Rudin  
Helen Zipes

**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 Deborah Zuker**

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

Jack Lazarus

- 1.5 Approval of the Agenda of July 29, 2021** **Judah Silverman**

A motion was made by Harland Tanner and seconded by Madelaine Werier to approve the agenda.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

- 1.6 Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors held on June 22, 2021** **Judah Silverman**

A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Yossi Bokhaut to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors for the meeting held on June 22, 2021.

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** **Jay Amdur**

- Jay reported that due to the shul bookkeeper's focus on the year-end audit, monthly financials will be reported at next month's board meeting or at the September Board Meeting prior to the AGM.

- 2.3 Update of Membership Renewal** **Elisheva Brantz**

- Elisheva reported that membership is coming in steadily and that approximately 280 adults have already renewed.
- Judah stated that the shul's summer mailing will be going out next week which should encourage membership renewal.
- Yossi asked Elisheva to provide a thorough membership report at next month's board meeting in order to guide the Board's outreach planning. For example, there

is a desire to reach out to members who did not renew this past year but who had been members prior to Covid.

- David asked if members who recently turned 18 years old (the minimum age to join, according to the shul's By-law) were contacted to become members and Elisheva replied that this outreach has been discussed among the staff, specifically about how to engage this demographic in a meaningful way. There is currently no charge for members under the age of 21 but that donations are solicited.
- Madelaine suggested that a monthly email go out to welcome that 18-21 demographic, mentioning the volunteering opportunities and other shul offerings.
- Rabbi Kenter said that, historically, people have renewed only a few days before the High Holy Days but that this year, due to capacity limitations and the variety of services and locations, renewing will be necessary earlier than in years past. A survey to inquire about location, day and service-length and type of service will be sent out to members next week.

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

#### **3.1 Ottawa Talmud Torah Update**

**Judah Silverman**

- Judah was delighted to report that KBI had reached an understanding and agreement in principal with Ottawa Talmud Torah (OTT). The proposal includes:
  - OTT will become KBI's religious school
  - OTT will maintain their name and operate as an "arm" of KBI (similar to the OKFB)
  - Curriculum oversight will come under KBI clergy's purview
  - KBI will assume fiduciary responsibility for the program
  - OTT students and families will be included in KBI activities
  - OTT's Director will report to KBI's Senior Rabbi and will become a salaried employee of KBI
  - OTT will have a representative on the KBI Board of Directors
  - OTT will be encouraged to serve the broader Jewish community and not just KBI's immediate community
- A transition team will be created in the fall to discuss and implement an understanding around finances, governance, funding, curriculum, etc.
- Norm asked if OTT is currently financially self-supporting. Judah replied that they currently are, and that they also depend on various funding sources including government subsidies and revenues from third-party Bingo establishments. The funding model needs to be further developed and this process will commence in the fall.
- Madelaine asked about safety protocols, including: behaviour plans and strategies and whose board would be the "final resting place" of decision-making. Judah replied that their board would be an advisory board to KBI's Board but that all final decisions will rest with the KBI Board of Directors.
- Rabbi Zuker said that with this new partnership, KBI could expand its inclusionary policies. As an example, she mentioned that Tamir is currently launching a program to support kids who benefit from extra supports in schools.

**A motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Madelaine Werier to enter into negotiations with Ottawa Talmud Torah to bring it under the auspices of Kehillat Beth Israel.**

**All were in favour. The motion was carried.**

### **3.2 Report from the Committee on Committees**

**Victor Rabinovich**

- A final report was prepared by the Committee on Committees, which had met with and explored the shul's existing committees and structure.
- The Committee tabled the following findings:
  - A successful committee has a clear role
  - A successful committee has a relationship with Clergy/Staff that works
  - A successful committee has a relationship with the Board that works
  - The membership of a successful committee is renewed periodically
- The Committee made the following recommendations:
  - The Board should set an annual mandate for each Committee, in co-operation with the Chair of the Committee. There should be clarity between what is expected of Clergy/Staff and what is expected of the volunteers
  - Committees should report regularly to the Board
  - The Board should ask the Governance Committee to draft corresponding amendments to Operating Policy 7, if necessary
  - Most Committees should set goals and milestones for its work over a 12-month period (or longer)
  - Committees should endeavour to keep and circulate minutes
- Yossi asked about the timeline to implement these recommendations, about who is accountable for these recommendations (ie. who is responsible to make sure that committees follow through)? Also, he asked when the "circle back" would take place? Six months? One year?
- Norm requested that by late August, a roadmap be in place to guide the Committees in their implementation of these above noted recommendations.

### **3.3 Other Business raised by any Director**

- None

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

### **4.1 Guidance on Vaccination Status (re: High Holy Days)**

**Judah Silverman**

- Discussion was held about what KBI's policy should be around vaccinations, inclusion, creating safe spaces, messaging and welcoming our members for the HHD.
- The position of the majority of the Board is that those who are eligible and able to be vaccinated, and who are over the age of 12, should do so. The live stream option will be available to any and all congregants.

**4.2 Any other business raised by any Director requiring Board decision or authority**

- None

**5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION AND WITHOUT VOTE**

**5.1 Nominating Committee**

**Judah Silverman**

- At the coming AGM in October, there will be four vacancies on the Board. Candidates have been confirmed for three of these positions, and the fourth person is considering the request.

**5.2 Date of the AGM**

**Judah Silverman**

- The Annual General Meeting has been set for Thursday, October 14, 2021.

**5.3 Other business raised by any Director**

- Norm reported that Life and Legacy received a \$7,500.

**6.0 IN CAMERA**

**7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.**

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 PM.