

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
February 24, 2022
Zoom Meeting
Minutes**

Present:

Norm Ferkin
Jeff Greenberg
David Lyman

Jaimee Mitzmacher
Victor Rabinovitch
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin
Olga Strelchenko
Harland Tanner
Madelaine Werier

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

Staff Present:

Rena Garshowitz

Regrets:

Adina Libin
Donna Strauss
Judah Silverman

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

Victor Rabinovitch

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

1.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Victor Rabinovitch

None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.

1.3 D'Var Torah

Rabbi Kenter

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

Samuel Zunder
Janet Menachof

1.5 Approval of Board Minutes From the Meeting Held on January 22, 2022 **Victor Rabinovitch**

A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Jeff Greenberg to approve the Board minutes from the meeting held on January 22, 2022.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.6 Business Arising From Previous Minutes **Victor Rabinovitch**

Victor asked the Staff for an update about Purim plans. Rena said that volunteers have been solicited for Mishloach Manot deliveries. Rena also reminded board members that “Welcomers” are needed for Shabbat mornings.

The Membership Committee continues to seek a volunteer in the 20-30 year old demographic.

2.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

2.1 OTT AIP (Ottawa Talmud Torah Agreement in Principle) Update
Jeremy Rudin

Jeremy announced that there are plans underway to announce the approval of the AIP jointly with OTT by sending a common email to all members (both KBI and families affiliated with OTT) on Sunday, February 27th or shortly thereafter. The announcement will underline the benefits of the plan, while noting that the agreement is not yet finalized.

Jeremy explained that a minor amendment to the AIP is necessary, to reflect latest information from OTT, pertaining to Clause 4 of the agreement.

The Committee has now moved into the due diligence phase of the merger, which includes both the financial and legal dimensions of the project.

Harland spoke about some of the labour and governance issues connected to the project. He mentioned that KBI's internal governance rules would need to be applied appropriately. For example, which committee will oversee which aspects of the KBI-OTT School? What will be the Terms of Reference? What will be the composition of a new committee?

A motion was made by Jeremy Rudin and seconded by Olga Strelchenko that the words "Pursuant to the collective agreement between Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School and Ottawa Talmud Torah Teachers" be deleted from the Agreement in Principle with OTT.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

2.2 Any Business Raised By a Director

Olga spoke about the war in Ukraine. She encouraged this kehillah to be united in its support of Ukraine

Victor spoke about the possibility of refugees needing our support.

David Roytenberg spoke about a petition being circulated to waive the visa requirement to bring refugees to Canada. He shared the petition with the Board.

Norm spoke about the volunteer organization "House to Home" regarding donations to support the possibility of Ukrainian refugees. Madelaine mentioned that there might be a need for volunteers to assist with the sorting and organizing of that organization's donations. Cantor Green will discuss with the Youth Team the possibility of pre-b'nai mitzvah youth or other youth groups at KBI volunteering.

3.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Budget 2022-2023 Process

Jeremy Rudin

Jeremy spoke to this item because Adina, the Treasurer, could not attend the meeting. He explained that committees are being asked to provide input into the budget, and they should plan to submit their input in early April. The request to committees will be sent out in March and will include some context for the budget including a projection of what our financial results will be in the current year and the guidelines that the Finance and Audit Committee will

use to prepare the proposed 2022-23 budget. Discussion ensued about the process and the role of the Board in terms of allocating funds and budgeting.

3.2 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.

4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Presentation on Programming **Rabbi Kenter**

Rabbi Kenter presented a slide deck entitled, "Programming and Service Highlights". He prepared this with Rena to describe what the shul does in terms of services and programming.

Some of the presentation highlights included:

- KBI is a "Big Tent" shul with many smaller sub-communities.
- KBI is guided by our values of inclusion, egalitarianism and USCJ Conservative Judaism.
- KBI provides a plethora of intergenerational programming as well as outreach to various different communities, populations and interests.
- Rabbi Kenter gave examples for each of the aforementioned points.

Rabbi Kenter also suggested that small groups (which help build the sense of community at KBI) are best supported when congregants themselves are deeply involved with the group (and Clergy/Staff act as facilitators).

Victor concluded by stressing that this presentation is the first of its kind. He thanked the Rabbi and Rena, and asked that they return with a more developed draft that includes statistics on participation in various activities, and also takes into account questions that had been raised by Board members.

4.2 JDAIM **Madelaine Werier**

Madelaine spoke about the values of Inclusion and the Duty to Accommodate. She introduced the Board to terminology such as Universal Design and Inclusive Design.

Discussion ensued about existing programs (such as the pre-B'nai Mitzvah and Tamir Shabbats) and Madelaine reminded the Board that we still have a duty to be even more inclusive in bridging the inclusivity gap. There remains a need to avoid the "us" here and the "them" there. There were questions and comments from Board members.

4.3 Other Business Raised By a Director

David Roytenberg presented the Adult Education Committee's Terms of Reference. David then went on to explain the various "Programming Buckets" that his committee oversees. These "buckets" include:

- Jewish Text and Philosophy
- Scholars in Residence/Shabbat Dinners
- Local Talent
- Israeli Affairs
- Eylu v'Eylu
- Partnerships
- Movies

Victor thanked David and members of his committee. These Terms of Reference and the mandate would now guide the committee for the next 12 to 18 months.

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.1 Vaccination Mandate

Rena Garshowitz

Rena reported that proof of vaccination for children five years old and older remains in place in anticipation of Purim festivities. Jaimee asked if a booster would be required as well. Rena answered that two doses is considered "fully vaccinated".

5.2 Membership Wellness Checks

Victor Rabinovitch

Victor said that Helen Zipes, Chair of the Membership Committee will be reaching out to Board Members to make wellness phone calls to KBI members. He noted that some other committees had also suggested a need to reach out, and bring membership information up to date. He said staff would look into setting up a coordinated approach to this

5.3 Committee Reports As Circulated

Victor underlined that the committee reports were informative and essential reading. This is how Board members remain abreast of what committees are doing, and this is where questions may be raised about any committee. Cantor Green highlighted some key points in the Youth Committee report including the fact that Youth Advisor Laura Dimitroff has accepted a job with the Government and that there will be a need for a future staffing decision..

Norm gave a brief update about the Life and Legacy Committee. Next steps include obtaining confirmation that the pledges made in the Letters of Intent process, have been formalized. He emphasized the importance of Board members personally committing to the Legacy Fund.

5.4 Other Business Raised By Any Director

Jaimee said that KBI is in a unique position: Having an upcoming vacancy for the Youth Advisor position and formalizing the KBI School. Combining these two areas could be an exciting opportunity.

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

The next Board Meeting: March 24, 2022