

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
December 15, 2022
Minutes**

Present:

Sarah Beutel
Norm Ferkin
Jeff Greenberg
Gillian Koh

David Lyman
Jaimee Mitzmacher
Victor Rabinovitch
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin
Judah Silverman (Zoom)

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter (Zoom)

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter

Staff Present:

Elisheva Brantz

Regrets:

Adina Libin

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

Victor Rabinovitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Board members expressed pleasure at meeting together in-person, for the first time in nearly three years, due to the Covid precautions. Victor said that if public health advice remains unchanged, the Board will try to hold regular in-person meetings, but with Zoom fall back.

1.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Victor Rabinovitch

None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

All

A motion was made by Judah Silverman and seconded by Norm Ferkin to approve the agenda for December 15, 2022, with a provision that item 1.5 Life and Legacy Discussion be postponed until the January board meeting.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.4 D'Var Torah

Rabbi Kenter

1.5 Moment of Silence to Commemorate Those Congregants Who Have Passed Away Since the Last Board Meeting

Victor Rabinovitch

Annette Albert

1.6 Approval of Board Minutes From the Meeting Held on November 17, 2022

All

A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Jeff Greenberg to approve the Board minutes from the meeting held on November 17, 2022.

All were in favour. The motion was carried, with following corrections:

In Financial Matters second-to-last bullet be changed from “taken out of the Foundation” to “has been allocated for use”. Also, in item 3.1, that Jeff Greenberg was confirmed as Chair of the Membership Committee. The minutes will be amended to reflect these corrections.

1.7 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

All

To date, current membership dues received are \$810,000.00. We budgeted for \$762,000.00. The Kol Nidre Appeal came in at approximately \$40,000.00, which is significantly higher than was budgeted.

1.8 Round Table Introductions and Breakout Rooms

Board members took turns introducing themselves, talking about synagogue and their own biographies. Members were then asked to consider 1-2 improvements for KBI and ways the Board can bring these proposed

improvements to fruition. Victor will prepare a compilation of these suggestions at a later date.

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.

3.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 Building and Lands Proposal for HVAC **Jeff Greenberg**

Jeff reported on follow up to the suggestion at the last Board Meeting made by Gillian Koh, to explore the option of heating pumps to replace the rooftop heating and air conditioning units. This work was done by John Denomme of staff, and reviewed by the BLC. He reported that the heat pump option is not recommended because it is approximately \$25,000.00 more expensive; it will require new wiring service for the rooftop; it is not entirely reliable in Ottawa's deep winter temperatures; and, the new gas powered system being considered are more energy efficient than the current unit.

A motion was made by Jeff Greenberg and seconded by Norm Ferkin to engage Climate Works for two new rooftop HVAC units, as per their quoted cost.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Update on OTT@KBI **Jeremy Rudin**

Jeremy reported that OTT@KBI will be structured as a separate not-for-profit corporation. This means that bingo can be maintained as a source of revenue for both OTT and the Kosher Food Bank.

A new Board of Directors is in the process of being created for the corporation of OTT@KBI. However, as KBI is the sole 'shareholder' of OTT, it is KBI that will name this Board., which will be comprised of

- Three board members, two of whom are KBI members
- One long-standing participant in OTT, but who is not a KBI member

Rabbi Kenter reported that there are 46 students enrolled this year, up from 26 last year. The high school level JTeen will become part of OTT @KBI next year.

Currently, the OTT@KBI school programming consists of:

- Sundays – Judaism as Religion (parshat ha-shavuah, tfillah, holidays)
- Tuesdays – Judaism as Peoplehood (Israel, Hebrew language)

4.2 Update on Kiddush Policy

Rabbi Kenter

Rabbi Kenter spoke about the operational capacity of the synagogue to offer three types of Kiddushim:

1. Basic Kiddush: Costing approximately \$100.00; bagels, cream cheese, vegetables; sponsored through the Kiddush Fund
2. Volunteer-Run and name-sponsored Kiddush: Approximately \$300.00-\$350.00; using 2-3 volunteers to do the prep work each time; includes soup, salads, main, etc.
3. External catered Kiddush: sponsored by an individual and price negotiated with caterer, with KBI assisting

The synagogue will now always offer a Kiddush after services, avoiding the confusion in the past when it wasn't clear if a Kiddush would always be available.

Rabbi Kenter and Board members spoke about the need to promote regular donations to sustain this approach. We need regular donations to the Kiddush Fund, as well as encouraging members to sponsor a 'higher level' named kiddush. This should become part of our Bulletin explanation and also announced regularly in shul.

4.3 Other Business Raised by a Director

All

None

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.1 Committee Reports As Circulated

All

5.2 Other Business Raised By Any Director

None

6.0 IN CAMERA

There was a full discussion reporting on the progress to filling the Executive Director position.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023.