

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
January 26, 2023
Zoom
Minutes**

Present:

Sarah Beutel
Norm Ferkin
Jeff Greenberg
Gillian Koh

Adina Libin
David Lyman
Jaimee Mitzmacher
Victor Rabinovitch

David Roytenberg
Jeremy Rudin
Judah Silverman

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter

Staff Present:

Elisheva Brantz

Special Guest:

Micah Garten

Regrets:

None

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

Victor Rabinovitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

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 January 26, 2023.

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

Cantor David Aptowitz
Cynthia Engel
Dr. Stanley Goldstein

1.6 Life and Legacy Discussion

Micah Garten

Micah shared some highlights of the Life and Legacy initiative in many Ottawa Jewish organizations that was launched on March 1, 2020:

- 310 community members have signed up
- 600 gifts have been promised or made
- There is a correlation between annual giving and signing up for Life and Legacy; as soon as people make a commitment to Life and Legacy, their annual giving (donation) increases.
- KBI is currently in year 3 of a 4-year program that is encouraging and training organizations like ours.
- Life and Legacy must be interwoven into other philanthropic programming so that it becomes part of our culture.
- Stewardship of Legacy donors is essential, to continue to give honour and attention to people who have made pledges. The Jewish community is improving in this, and he encouraged KBI to act more vigorously in recognizing Legacy donors.

Gillian mentioned that the Government Gives Campaign lists KBI as an organization to whom its employees can make donations. Perhaps KBI can remind its government employee members to check the KBI box during the government's annual United Way campaign.

1.7 Approval of Board Minutes From the Meeting Held on December 15, 2022

All

A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Jeremy Rudin to approve the Board minutes from the meeting held on December 15, 2022.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.8 Business Arising From Previous Minutes All

Victor stated that his compilation of the suggestions that were made by board members at the December board meeting is not yet complete.

Kiddushim have been taking place every Shabbat. We have yet to embark on a more targeted appeal for Kiddush sponsors and donations.

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 Quarterly Financial Report Adina Libin

REVENUES:

- Donated revenues are close to where we expected them
- Credit card charges are up, reflecting receipt of more revenue payments
- Hall and kitchen rentals are higher than expected
- Yizkor Book donations were slightly lower than expected
- A Life and Legacy grant was received from the American foundation that is sponsoring this entire initiative: Approximately \$6200.00
- CBSO grants that have been promised should be coming in soon
- Kiddush sponsorships are higher than expected
- Tuition for OTT is higher than expected
- Revenues are understated on this financial statement because some revenues are still coming in, such as Bingo payments and some other grant monies.

EXPENSES:

- Personnel costs are down because we don't yet have a full-time Youth Coordinator and there are also vacancies in office personnel
- \$70,000.00 has been ear-marked for maintenance and repairs
- A discussion at the June Board meeting should take place about increasing membership fees to cover the credit card usage fees
- Re: Programming costs and revenues
 - Jaimee suggested we should see more of a breakdown in the financial statements to identify specific program costs and revenues. Adina agreed. Adina will follow up with Lana.

3.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 Terms of Reference for Two Committees

Jeff Greenberg

Jeff spoke about the **Membership Committee's** recruitment and retention goals for members. Improving communication with members and potential members is crucial.

A motion was made by Jeff Greenberg and seconded by David Lyman to approve the Terms of Reference as proposed by the Membership Committee.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

Jeff said that the **Buildings and Lands Committee** continues to meet and it focuses on the items that have been identified. Priorities include repairs that may affect health and safety in the building. Many smaller and mid-size items have been completed. Now, the focus will shift towards items that are "desireable". Some items being considered include:

- Replace main sanctuary curtains
- Replace existing ceiling in the hallway from the side entrance, including lighting
- Replace flooring from side entrance door to playroom and lobby

A motion was made by Jeff Greenberg and seconded by Norm Ferkin to adopt the Terms of Reference as proposed by the Buildings and Lands Committee.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Adult Education Committee

David Roytenberg

David gave an update about this committee's work. Volunteers are working with Rabbi Kenter at defining the upcoming programming, and are making suggestions for the program's direction.

Victor asked how the committee could better publicize the programs to people who don't currently attend synagogue regularly. Jaimee suggested the "Bring a Friend" system.

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.1 Gather Inc.

Rabbi Kenter

Rabbi Kenter spoke about this organization's work and how KBI will be utilizing their services to help KBI build relationships, and engage in meaningful conversations with members and potential members.

5.2 Other Business Raised By Any Director

None

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

