

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
August 25, 2022
Zoom Meeting
Minutes**

Present:

Norm Ferkin
Jeff Greenberg

Jaimee Mitzmacher
Victor Rabinovitch
David Roytenberg
Jeremy Rudin

Judah Silverman
Olga Strelchenko
Harland Tanner
Donna Strauss

Secretary:

(To be arranged)

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter

Staff Present:

Rena Garshowitz

Regrets:

Jodi Gitter, Adina Libin

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

Victor Rabinovitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Victor noted that Rabbi Kenter was leading the Marriage Preparation class this evening, so would join the Board shortly. Also, as Jodi Gitter is away, the meeting will be recorded and he will arrange to do Minutes.

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

Rabbi Kenter spoke about the month of Ellul as a period of intense spiritual preparations. He wanted to note at the start of this meeting how much is underway with shul preparations. The KBI@OTT supplementary school is getting into high gear, with staff and textbooks. A new "Taste of Torah" introductory evening class is being set up. On September 11 there will be two major welcoming programs. He stressed our need for volunteers to help in various events, including the High Holy Days.

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

Victor Rabinovitch

Joe Levitan
Aharon Rumstein
Robert Lederman
Alex Polowin
David Kwavnick
Norman Wolfish
Isaac Gorelic
Stanley Ages
Bertha Krebs
Jody Pressman

1.5 Approval of Agenda

All

There will be an additional reporting item in Section 4, by Cantor Green, on attendance at daily minyanim.

The agenda was adopted by consensus

1.6 Approval of Board Minutes From the Meeting Held on June 23 2022

A motion was made by Olga Strelchenko and seconded by David Roytenberg to approve the Board minutes from the meeting held on June 23, 2022.

Two corrections were made by Jeremy R. After which, all were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.7 Business Arising From Previous Minutes **All**

None

2.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

2.1 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.

2.2 Update on audit process and timing

Rena reported that the draft audit and final statement would only be available in late September. It will go to the Finance and Audit Committee for detailed review. Victor said that in light of this timing, the next Board meeting would be on October 6. The AGM will be on October 27.

Rena also explained that the annual fees for Associate Members would be \$300 per person, which is an increase from \$250. There has not been an increase for some years. She also said that a future discussion of the policy on Associate Members is needed.

3.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 No items were raised.

4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Update on OTT@KBI: **J. Rudin**

Jeremy drew attention to his previously circulated report. He explained the key administrative step at this time: there will continue to be an OTT Corporation, with a Board consisting of three people appointed by KBI. The separate corporation is likely to be allowed to remain a recipient of Bingo

revenues. Once the OTT@KBI Board is appointed, there will be a formal agreement on the services that KBI will provide, and associated compensation. He also said that the OTT@KBI advisory committee, which he chairs, will be undertaking a review of school administrative policies. He thanked Rabbi Kenter for all the progress made on updating curriculum and putting teachers into place.

There was extensive discussion. David L. congratulated everyone involved and asked about registration. Rabbi Kenter said registration comes late in summer; there are good 'vibes' and this will be a good rebuilding year. Jeff G. asked about promotion and marketing. Rabbi Kenter outlined the email sent to all past families and announcements made to KBI members, plus OTT presence at PJ Library event, and opportunities in future years. Jaimee M. stressed importance of networking. Olga S. mentioned presence of newly arrived Ukrainians as potential attendees.

4.2 Update on Building and Land Committee: Jeff Greenberg

Jeff reported that the BLC has met several times, under Chair lead of Jay Amdur, and has carried out a full walkaround, with John Denomme, in every corner of the building. BLC has categorised many repairs, and has identified top ones that will take about \$75,000 to do, the approved budget for 22-23. Priorities are safety, tripping hazards, some beautification, and better security. Smaller projects are within ED approval authority, but big projects will come to Board.

Many compliments voiced for staff and the BLC. David Lyman and others asked for more information on a 1-3-5 years timeframe. Victor summed up, saying a process for planning, budgets and approvals is getting into place. A further presentation will be done to Board in about 3 months.

4.3 High Holy Day Plans

Rabbi Kenter spoke about plans for Days 1 and 2 of Rosh Hashanah, and for Yom Kippur. Main sanctuary will be traditional, while big tent will be more like the Chapel service, lay led. There will also be many kids programs. He stressed the importance of the Yom Kippur ticket and donations booklet.

Discussion of masking policy in services followed. Board members noted importance of masks as preventative measure, and that 'shul regulars' do not object. We follow Ottawa Public Health advice as much as possible. There should be more flexibility for the outdoor tent service, perhaps with only one area reserved for compulsory masks.

4.4 Membership Renewal

Rena reported that 50 percent renewal has been reached and this is very satisfactory. Main push will start after Labour Day. She asked for volunteers to help with phone calls, if needed. David Lyman and Jeff G stressed that scripts are needed to help volunteers, and selecting names for renewal calls can be done through apps such as shared Google docs.

4.5 Minyan attendance

Cantor Green has been keeping stats for a few weeks. We get 7 people regularly, supplemented by others who come occasionally or for special events. He suggested we need a daily schedule for attendees, on a rota, preferably run by a volunteer. Jaimee M described a 'minyan captains' system in some shuls, who take charge of one or more days per week. We could survey people to identify their preferred days for attending. Other Board members were optimistic that attendance will get stronger with end of summer.

4.6 Executive Director recruitment process

Update from Victor, who noted that Rena would leave for her new job at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa in October, around Sukkoth. He was now gathering information from a selection of people on the priorities for a new recruit. The Finance Committee would be consulted on salary range, and the Personnel Committee would be the lead in guiding recruitment.

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.1 Committee Reports As Circulated

5.2 Other Business Raised By Any Director

Norm F. noted importance of moving Letters of Intent into firm legacy commitments in Wills.

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM. Next meeting October 6, 2022

