

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors
March 23, 2023
In Person and Zoom
Minutes**

Present:

Sarah Beutel
Gillian Koh
Norm Ferkin
Adina Libin

David Lyman
Jaimee Mitzmacher
Victor Rabinovitch
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin
Judah Silverman
Olga Strelchenko

Secretary:

Jodi Gitter

Clergy Present:

Cantor Jason Green
Rabbi Eytan Kenter

Staff Present:

Jeremy Rosenberg

Special Guest:

Ralph Anzarouth

Regrets:

Jeff Greenberg

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 Approval of Agenda

All

The agenda for March 23, 2023 was approved.

1.4 D'Var Torah

Rabbi Kenter

The D'var Torah was postponed due to technology glitches.

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

Victor Rabinovitch

Rabbi Michael Brown
Lenore Schacter

1.6 Approval of Board Minutes from Board meeting held on February 23, 2023

All

A motion was made by Jodi Gitter and seconded by Judah Silverman to approve the Board minutes from the meeting held on February 23, 2023.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.7 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

All

- Submissions of budget requests from many of KBI's committees have been received. All committees should submit their requests as soon as possible.

- KBI staff continue to identify building repairs that should be made, and these are handled within available time and budgets.

2.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

2.1 Executive Director's Written Statement Respecting the Status of Staff Salaries and Remittances to Government

Jeremy Rosenberg

Jeremy presented the statement for employee wages to the Board.

3.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3.1 Terms of Reference – Ritual

Ralph Anzarouth

Ralph Anzarouth, Chair of the Ritual Committee, joined the meeting as a guest, and he presented the revised terms of Reference of the Ritual Committee to the Board.

Its mandate is to assist the Clergy and report to the Board about the committee's advice on ritual policy and practices.

Ralph explained the committee's three major topics it oversees:

1. Ongoing activities that require ongoing management (Ex. Cleaning and the maintenance of the ritual items such as the Torah crowns, etc.)
2. Short-term topics that, once resolved, lead to a new process or a change in process (Ex. Creation of the Bar Mitzvah Handbook, gender neutral aliyah-calling, etc.)
3. Topics that require study and education (Ex. The Mincha torah reading selected for Yom Kippur, etc.)

Various programs the committee overseas were mentioned including the World-Wide Wrap (tfillin program), High Holiday planning, and educating members of the kehillah to lead services and read Torah.

A motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Jaimee Mitzmacher to adopt the Terms of Reference of the Ritual Committee.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE

4.1 Briefing on search for Senior Rabbi, Youth head Victor Rabinovitch

Victor explained that Jeremy Rudin, as Chair of the Personnel Committee, will set up and oversee the search for a new Senior Rabbi. A special committee will be created and will work closely and in consultation with USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism).

The process suggested by USCJ and the Rabbinical Assembly is *not* to rush into anything. The advice is to use the search process as an opportunity for renewal. Information should be gathered, including the range of opinions of congregants

This work will begin in May and should take approximately one year. The process involves internal KBI thinking, posting of the job with the RA-USCJ, reviews of candidates, visits, evaluation, and contracting.

Discussion ensued about the criteria in order to be a Senior Rabbi for our congregation's size, the USCJ and RA guiding rules that are in place, and the wider search process.

The question of what to do in the interim also arose. As far as the search for an Interim Rabbi for the coming year goes, there are fewer rules established by the USCJ and RA. It was explained that Interim Rabbis are often retired Rabbis who commit to a posting for a short period of time. Often, the Interim Rabbi offers advice and guidance in the permanent Rabbi search.

The search process for a Director of Youth and Education Programming is probably nearing an end. Rabbi Kenter mentioned the name of a solid candidate, and he has sought feedback from the Personnel Committee. He expects to make a job offer very soon.

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.3 Other Business Raised By Any Director

None

6.0 IN CAMERA

Following the in-camera session, the following two motions were made and adopted:

A motion was made by Jeremy Rudin and seconded by David Roytenberg that KBI conduct a thorough and well-planned search for a new Senior Rabbi, following the guidelines set out by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Rabbinic Assembly and KBI's own bylaws and operating policies with the goal of seeing a new Senior Rabbi in place by July 2024.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Jeremy Rudin and seconded by David Roytenberg that the President strike a small committee to conduct a transparent search for an interim Rabbi. Consistent with the bylaw, the financial elements of the contract with the interim Rabbi must be approved by the Personnel Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee and the appointment must be approved by the Board.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023.
There will be a special training session on Thursday, March 30, 2023.