

**Kehillat Beth Israel  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 25, 2024  
Minutes**

**Present:**

Sarah Beutel  
Howard Cohen  
Norm Ferkin  
Gillian Koh

Jaimee Mitzmacher  
Janice Pleet  
Victor Rabinovitch  
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin  
Olga Streltchenko  
Sheldon Wiseman

**Zoom:**

Jeff Greenberg  
Adina Libin  
Ralph Anzarouth

**Secretary:**

Jaimee Mitzmacher

**Clergy Present:**

Rabbi Adini Lewittes

**Staff Present:**

Jeremy Rosenberg

**Regrets:**

David Lyman

**1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1.1 Call to Order**

**Jeremy Rudin**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**1.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**Jeremy Rudin**

None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.

**1.3 Approval of Agenda**

**All**

A motion was made by Sheldon Wiseman and seconded by Olga Streltchenko to approve the agenda for January 25, 2024.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

**1.4 D'Var Torah**

**Rabbi Lewittes**

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

Larry Hartman

**1.6 Approval of the Board minutes of December 21, 2023** **Jaimee Mitzmacher**

A motion was made by Norm Ferkin and seconded by Victor Rabinovitch to approve the minutes of December 21, 2023.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.

**1.7 Business Arising from Previous Minutes** **All**

No business from previous minutes.

**2.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT VOTE**

**2.1 Ritual Committee Presentation and Discussion** **Ralph Anzarouth**

- Meet monthly
- Mandate is to assist clergy and report to the board on matters of ritual policy
- Oversee maintenance of ritual objects
- Occasionally organize ritual education programs
- Work on short-term projects such as the shul handbook
- Introduced Shabbat mincha during winter months
- Coordinate gabbais, torah and haftorah readers
- Upcoming projects:
  - fundraiser for High Holiday torah covers, torah mantles, chumashim and siddurim with dedications (expected amount to raise is \$25,000)
  - guide for torah readers
  - World Wide Wrap
  - attendance at daily services

**2.2 New Operating Policy on Financial Sustainability** **Jeremy Rudin**

- Using the income from the endowment
- New guideline has to work with two other initiatives:
  - Re-orienting the building to the front of the lot
    - limit drawdown guidelines to operating expenditures and revenues
    - option to take a loan from endowment and pay back with interest
  - Improving the treatment of tied donations
    - Keep donations separate from current year revenue until it is spent
- Board decision to strike a balance, spending \$260,000 a year of the \$8 million
- Goal is to slightly increase endowment over inflation over time to balance the current needs with future needs and not lose purchasing power

- 3 funds: operating (every day expenses and revenues), capital (endowment, building expenses) and special purposes (Kosher Food Bank, OTT) funds

### **2.3 Rabbi Search update**

**Sarah Beutel**

- Finishing screening process and looking forward to Rabbi visits in February
- Looking to have 2 to 3 Rabbis to interview
- Any applicant who is not a member of the RA will be encouraged to become a member if hired

### **2.4 Update on Other Planned Initiatives**

**Jeremy Rudin**

- Kosher Food Bank has been receiving a lot less from the Ottawa Food Bank than they typically do. Idea to have a month-long fundraising initiative to compensate. April 6 will be a fundraiser announced at a later date.
- Jeremy asked board members to all make several phone calls to solicit donations for one of KBI's fundraising initiatives

### **2.5 Review of Board Agenda for the Year**

**Jeremy Rudin**

- Howard would like to report on the Kosher Food Bank in February
- Membership report will be moved to April's board meeting
- Will move the fundraising discussion to April's board meeting
- Adult Education will present in June
- Norm would like to review the Leonard Cohen Tribute Concert in March
- Discuss promotion / marketing for events

## **3.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

### **3.1 Appointment of KBI Representatives to Jewish Memorial Gardens Board (Judah Silverman and Lionel Bronstein to be nominated)**

**Jeremy Rudin**

A motion was made by Olga Streltchenko and seconded by Sheldon Wiseman to appoint Judah Silverman and Lionel Bronstein to be KBI Representatives to the Jewish Memorial Gardens Board.

### **3.2 Appointment of KBI Representative to MERCAZ Canada (David Roytenberg to be nominated)**

**Jeremy Rudin**

A motion was made by Norm Ferkin and seconded by Sarah Beutel to appoint David Roytenberg to be KBI Representatives to MERCAZ.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Executive Director's written statement respecting the status of staff salaries and remittances to government**

**Jeremy Rosenberg**

## **5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE**

### **5.1 Committee reports as circulated, if any**

**All**

Two reports were received without discussion:

- Director of Youth and Education Programming Report
- Ritual Committee Report

### **5.2 Other business raised by any Director**

**All**

Jeff Greenberg discussed KBI collaborating and supporting AJA's event and encourages KBI to continue to collaborate on other community events.

## **6.0 IN CAMERA**

## **7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024; in person if possible with Zoom option.