

**Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2024
Minutes**

Present:

Sarah Beutel
Norm Ferkin
David Lyman

Jaimee Mitzmacher
Janice Pleet
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin
Sheldon Wiseman

Zoom:

Cantor Jason Green
Howard Cohen

Jeff Greenberg
Victor Rabinovitch

Secretary:

Jaimee Mitzmacher

Clergy Present:

Staff Present:

Jeremy Rosenberg

Regrets:

Rabbi Lewittes
Gillian Koh

Adina Libin
Olga Streltchenko

1. 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 Sarah Beutel and seconded by David Lyman to approve the agenda for March 28, 2024. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.4 D'Var Torah

Cantor Green

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

Paul Faynwachs

1.6 Approval of the Board minutes of March 3, 2024 **Jaimee Mitzmacher**

A motion was made by Jaimee Mitzmacher and seconded by Norm Ferkin to approve the minutes of March 3, 2024. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

1.7 Business Arising from Previous Minutes **All**

- Kosher Food Bank
 - o Sat., April 6 event starts at 9:00 p.m.
 - o silent auction information in the flyer and on the website
 - o currently fundraising to sponsor families for Passover packages

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS

2.1. Executive Director's written statement respecting the status of staff salaries and remittances to government **Jeremy Rosenberg**

This report was received.

3. REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND A VOTE

3.1. Proposal to change the KBI membership model for MERCAZ Canada **D. Roytenberg**

- People are currently given an option to become members of MERCAZ Canada (Movement to Renew Conservative Zionism) when they renew membership
- Proposal that KBI members become members of MERCAZ by default and can option out
- Rate is \$5 per member per year
- This is the membership model used by Orthodox and Reform movements in Canada
- Adopting this model would help give the Conservative movement greater voice in the World Zionist Congress
- Allows MERCAZ to identify and communicate with members
- Why MERCAZ
 - o Keeps religious and political activities separate
 - o Represents Conservative Jews at World Zionist Congress
 - o The more members we have the greater representation we have at the World Zionist Congress (currently 3 WZC representatives are from MERCAZ Canada of 21 representatives sent from Canada)
 - o MERCAZ advocates for issues important to Conservative/Masorti Jews: egalitarian prayer, conversions, kashruth, recognition of marriages performed abroad, funding for programming

The following motion was made by David Roytenberg and seconded by Sheldman Wiseman. Resolved that all members of Kehillat Beth Israel will be automatically enrolled

as members of MERCAZ Canada and that Kehillat Beth Israel will collect the membership fee of \$5 per year from each adult member and remit the money to MERCAZ Canada each year. KBI will also provide the information required by MERCAZ Canada to identify and communicate with their membership, including full name, address, email and telephone number where available. The motion carried.

4. REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND WITHOUT A VOTE

4.1. Rabbi Search

S. Beutel

- Rabbi Polansky is scheduled to visit April 4-7
- A visit for a 3rd rabbinic candidate is currently being scheduled

4.2. Fundraising – General Discussion

All

- 2023-24 fundraising budget is \$42,089 and actual projection is \$50,000
- 2023-24 donations budget is \$46,575 and actual projection is \$26,117
- Over the years we are averaging a combined \$100,000 between general-purpose fundraising and donations, amounting to approximately 10% of dues
- This year we had 2 specific fundraising campaigns: Torah mantels (approx. \$26,000 gross with \$13,000 expenses) and Leonard Cohen Concert (approx. \$5,000 raised although concert ran at a small net loss)
- Potential fundraisers for specific events:
 - o “3 Days in October” documentary, will cost approx. \$2,000
- Possible next steps:
 - o Need an organized protocol / committee for fundraising with annual targets
 - o Ask for recommended donations with dues
 - o Offer a higher tier membership fee with additional benefits
 - o Hire an event planner for fundraising and membership engagement
 - o Build our endowment by taking a piece of donations to put towards endowment

4.3. Budget Preparation – a look ahead

D. Lyman / J. Rudin

- We are soliciting budget requests from committee / board chairs.
- Additional line items will be budgeting on a net-of-revenue basis
- We expect elevated expenses next year including: security, building upkeep, potential rabbi relocation
- Discussion to raise dues to reflect inflationary costs, 3-5%

4.4. Review of Board Agenda for the year

J. Rudin

- April: Membership Report, Rabbi Search update
- May: Youth and OTT Committee Reports, High Holiday preparations
- June: Adult Ed and Nomination Committee Reports, fundraising planning

5.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR VOTE

5.1 Committee reports as circulated, if any

All

Three reports were received without discussion:

- Cantor's Report
- Director of Youth and Education Programming Report
- Adult Education

5.2 Other business raised by any Director

All

- OJCS will be moving into our building for May and June during their construction project.

6.0 IN CAMERA

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024; in person if possible with Zoom option.