

Kehillat Beth Israel Congregation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**In Person and on Zoom
Thursday, May 30, 2024**

Present:

Howard Cohen
Norm Ferkin
David Lyman

Jaimee Mitzmacher
Janice Pleet
David Roytenberg

Jeremy Rudin
Sheldon Wiseman

Zoom:

Jeff Greenberg

Victor Rabinovitch

Jaimee Mitzmacher

Secretary:

Olga Streltchekno

Clergy Present:

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl

Cantor Green

Staff Present:

Jeremy Rosenberg

Sasha Kathron (for item 3.2 only)

Regrets: Sarah Beutel

Section 1: Preliminary Matters (20 minutes)

1. Call to Order and Introductory Remarks
The meeting was called to order at 7:04. There were no introductory remarks.
2. Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest
No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. Approval of Agenda
The following motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Gillian Koh: Resolved that the proposed agenda be adopted. The motion carried.
4. D'var Torah
Rabbi Frydman-Kohl presented the D'var Torah.
5. Moment of silence for those that have passed away since the previous meeting
6. Approval of Board minutes from meetings on April 25 and May 15, 2024
The following motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by David Lyman: Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of April 25 and May 15, 2024, be adopted as corrected. The motion carried.

7. Business arising from previous minutes
Sarah Beutel reported that negotiations were entered into with Rabbi Polansky as authorized at the Board meeting of May 15, 2024. The contract has now been signed with a start date of October 6, 2024, that is, immediately after Rosh Hashana. Rabbi Frydman-Kohl has agreed to return for Rosh Hashana.
8. Good and Welfare

Section 2: Financial Matters

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

Section 3: Reporting with Discussion and without a Vote

1. High Holiday Planning (15 minutes)
Cantor Green provided an update on preparations for High Holidays. The preparations started earlier this year than last, at the end of May, with the help of the ritual committee. There will be no tent this year, just the chapel and the sanctuary. Rav Baruch will be present in the sanctuary on Rosh Hashana and Rabbi Polansky on Yom Kippur. Torah readers for the HH are being lined up now with a commitment to have the complete roster by the end of July. Cantor Green will organize Tashlich. The Slichot service will include an appreciation of the donors of the new Torah Mantels. Family Kol Nidre will be in the chapel. Sukkot and Simchat Torah preparations are to be completed by the end of August.

Three requests came from board members: to have Shofar blown at the family service, to obtain new prayer books for Slichot and to revisit planning for youth programming. Sasha Kathron will present on this topic at Board meeting in June.

2. Youth and OTT Reports
Sasha Kathron reported on Youth Programming and OTT. She noted that there will be a new religious curriculum for OTT for the upper grades next year; this curriculum is one commonly used in the Conservative movement. The Hebrew curriculum will not change.

The following topics were discussed: advertising/marketing for OTT, advertising/publicity for Tot Shabbat, ways to better integrate the youth programming and OTT activities with synagogue life.

3. Rabbi Transition and Onboarding
Jeremy Rudin noted that the synagogue will strike a Rabbi Transition Committee. The Committee discussed the areas of focus and membership of the Committee.

The following motion was made by Norman Ferkin and seconded by Olga Streltchenko: Resolved that the Board expresses its appreciation to Sarah Beutel, Gustave Goldman and the entire Rabbi Search Committee for their hard work and dedication to KBI, which has led to a very successful outcome. The motion carried.

4. Financial Update for Q3 and Draft Budget for 2024-25 (30 minutes) D. Lyman
David Lyman presented a draft of the budget for the coming year for discussion. This included a proposal for a 4 per cent dues increase and to implement a higher-price membership tier that members could opt into. This higher tier would include free admission to events that would otherwise incur a fee. The board discussed the merits of the proposal and how it could be promoted and operationalized.

Jeremy Rudin reminded the Board that it imposed on itself a budget constraint to protect the value of the endowment. In the draft budget, this does not leave a great deal of room

for renovations and repairs. He also noted that we will only be paying the Rabbi's salary for 3/4 of the year, but that her absence will incur some offsetting expenditures.

David Lyman will return in June with a final proposal for approval.

5. Review of Board Agenda for the year
The Board reviewed the agenda for the upcoming meetings.

Section 5: Reporting without Discussion or Vote

There was no discussion of this item.

Section 6: In - camera Session (15 minutes)

Section 7: Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Olga Streltchenko and seconded by Gillian Koh; the motion carried.