February 1, 2018
Board Of Trustees Meeting
Temple Beth Israel

The meeting began at 7:01.


Minutes approval. The January minutes were approved.

Torah study. The Yitro Torah portion speaks to the qualifications for a leader: people with capacity or might; those in awe of God or serious people; people of truth; those who hate bribery.

Rabbi report. Rabbi Ruhi reported that there was a successful Tu‘b’shvat evening for both children and adults. There will be a three week course in April about prayer as technology for social change. The rabbi had a meeting with an ally (CASA) about a possible ballot measure trying to revoke Oregon’s sanctuary status. The rest of the rabbi’s report was issued electronically.

Financial report. December financials show a pretty good financial status. The financial committee is talking about paying down another $25,000 on building principal. There is discussion on the financial committee about using $107,000 from reserve funds to reallocate to gain more interest.

Membership commitment/dues process. The committee engaged about 70 people in three community meetings. Members were comfortable sharing in the meetings. On March 4, at 9:30, the dues committee will have another meeting for several affinity groups. Then, the committee will summarize feedback in a letter to congregants and on the website. The dues committee is currently researching different dues models. Then, the committee will try to propose a dues model for community discussion. Changing the membership forms for fiscal year 2018-19 to accommodate small improvements suggested in this winter’s meetings is likely. Discussion followed about how to bring more people in to the March 4 meeting.

Executive director report. Nina’s report was issued electronically. Nina discussed the sustainability of the current shabbat lunch custom. Aura suggested a kitchen committee and discussion followed about onegs.
**Preschool update.** Mindy reported that the preschool committee will be able to post the job announcement by March 1 or earlier. The new director would probably start in August. Any summer program would be run by teachers. Numbers are low at the preschool, about 19 total. The school will finish in the black financially. Surveys of preschool parents were inconclusive, but there’s hope that the new director can help lead decision making about extended hours and even the structure of the preschool. TBI will be represented at the upcoming preschool fair. The preschool committee is considering a name change for the preschool.

**Committee chair meeting.** Mindy met with almost all committee chairs in late January. Mindy solicited updates from chairs; asked them to give TBI’s theme some thought and how it has or might be incorporated. She also asked how the Board might support their committees better. The Talmud Torah committee chair stated that they continue to feel disconnected from the greater TBI community. Talmud Torah would like more help with marketing, but there is disagreement about who should play that role. Discussion followed about why the Talmud Torah community and the greater TBI community are not more easily integrated.

**Auction.** Nina reported that solicitations to businesses for the March auction’s silent auction need to be returned in the next two weeks. Board members should finalize their plans to attend now. The Board discussed a donation to tour a cannabis farm as an auction item. Discussion continued around the values and intentions of the auction event.

The meeting went into executive session.

The meeting ended at 8:45.

Recorded and submitted by Bruce Kreitzberg