Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 1, 2018  
Temple Beth Israel

The meeting began at 7:08 pm.


Torah study. Rabbi Ruhi shared a humorous Purim story.

Open forum. Karen Giese attends interfaith breakfasts at First Christian church. She appealed to the Board to reinstate financial support for this group. TBI has not contributed in the past two years. She suggested a $1000 per year donation to the group. About 300 people are served a meal each week, some of whom are needy.

Minutes approval. The February minutes were approved.

Rabbi report. The rabbi’s report was issued electronically. She also shared a description of the Purim festivities.

Executive director report and auction update. Nina’s report was issued electronically. Nina spoke briefly about auction preparations and expectations.

Talmud Torah report. Gretchen issued a report electronically. The problem of tech support was briefly discussed. Jess reported a successful Purim celebration. Debbie Libeskind will replace a lost teacher for the remainder of the school year.

Preschool update. The Preschool director job was posted on New Cage, Craigslist, Facebook groups, ENews and Indeed. The committee hopes to interview in a few weeks and hire in May. The Preschool has some new enrollees, helping the school keep a positive budget. Publicity at the local fair and a new sign at the TBI driveway are helpful. A new parent committee will engage current issues. Carole Diller’s retirement celebration will be June 10.

Membership commitment/dues process. Amy reported that the process is going well. The fourth and final community meeting is on Sunday, March 4. The committee is compiling data about
various dues models. When the meetings are complete, the website will be used to publicize themes from the meetings. In April, the committee hopes to have proposals to present to the Board.

Financials. The finance committee met on Monday. $25,000 payment on the principal of our mortgage loan may or may not allow monthly payments to be reamortized. The finance committee recommended that the transfer be made regardless and the board approved the transfer of these funds. We currently have about $172,000 in our reserve account which is not earning interest. The finance committee recommended and the board approved a transfer of $12,000 from reserves each month for one year at the minimum to buy one year CDs from Fidelity Bank where we already have an account paying about 2% interest at this time. The finance committee approved the proposed budget for 2018-2019. The Board discussed what fund might be used to support Karen Giese’s suggestion. Tzedakah veheset or Tikkun olam funds might be most appropriate. The conversation evolved into a discussion about how TBI responds and prioritizes financial engagement in the greater Eugene community. Pearl volunteered to approach the Tikkun and Tzedakah committees to solicit funds for the First Interfaith Sunday breakfast.

Budget. Nina said the proposed budget is comparable to last year’s. Nina’s budget was discussed and approved.

Code of conduct/sexual harassment policy. Mindy began a discussion about the need for TBI to create a congregation wide code of conduct and a sexual harassment policy. Debby suggested looking to RRC or other congregations for a functional policy. Jeff suggested that a committee be created to study the problem, consider policies and make suggestions. Nina suggested that other synagogue policies are a good way to start and act quickly. Rabbi Ruhi said that the topic currently has more urgency due to the MeToo movement and recent expressed request for TBI to take action to protect people. Mindy also wanted to revisit the communication policy that was addressed in 2017, but shelved. Nathan suggested that the communication policy be used to address code of conduct and sexual harassment. Jared suggested that the Board adopt a communication policy for the Board, then suggest that the congregation adopt it. Mindy requested that this work be done before the May congregational meeting.

The meeting went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Recorded and submitted by Bruce Kreitzberg.