Board of Trustees Meeting
October 3, 2019
Temple Beth Israel

The meeting began at 7:00.

Present: Diane Baxter, Elliot Farren, Michael Griffel, Jeff Kirtner, Bruce Kreitzberg, Reisa Maddex, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Julee Raiskin, Jared Rubin, Mindy Schlossberg, Jody Seasonwein, Aura Solomon, Tracy Tessler, Pearl Wolfe.
Executive Director, Nina Korican.
Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein.
Guests: Julie Weise, Debby Laimon, Ayelet Amittay.

Teaching. Rabbi Ruhi did a teaching about the end of Succoth and the High Holidays.

Open forum. Julie and Ayelet came to talk about Preschool hours. Julie said that several other TBI families with preschool age kids need to send their kids to other preschools to make family dynamics work. Likewise, it is no longer working for her family to utilize partial day preschool like TBI. Ayelet also explained her family’s need for a full day preschool at TBI. She also advocated for full day preschool as a matter of social equity. Diane Baxter asked what the guests thought the ideal end time for TBI Preschool might be. Julie thought 5:30.

Preschool update. Mindy’s committee was tasked with looking at the feasibility of running a full day preschool program: finances, staffing requirements, building requirements and space needs. Committee is not looking at a full year program right now. Mindy would like to bring a report answering those questions at the next Board meeting. Mindy suggests that the primary question is asking who the TBI Preschool is intended to serve, TBI families, Jewish families, greater community, etc. This uncertainty causes confusion, but the current committee will not tackle this question. Debby asked what the Board will do with the nuts and bolts of Mindy’s November report. Jeff answered that it depends on whether Mindy’s report finds full day preschool to even be feasible at TBI. Debby stated that the TBI website clearly describes TBI Preschool as a community preschool, though she did not specifically advocate for the Preschool to have one format or another. Mindy reminded the Board that it has been a TBI strategic plan goal to figure out the Preschool’s goals.

Announcements. Geraldine updated her request about TBI supporting asylum seekers. Geraldine met with Tikkun Olam and the Sanctuary Committee. There is currently difficulty finding structures to house people. Money, car rides, food, clothing, etc are all needs for the
community to help fulfill. Geraldine suggested that a “help train” is needed. Some needs are immediate and others are ongoing. Jody made a personal announcement. Jeff commented on how wonderful the High Holiday services have been, to the credit of Rabbi Ruhi and Nina. Pearl commented on the quality and her appreciation for Rabbi Ruhi’s dvar Torah on Rosh Hashana.

**Rabbi’s report.** The rabbi submitted her report electronically and she highlighted a few points from her report, including invitation to a donor’s reception on October 20.

**Minutes.** September minutes were passed.

**Surplus.** Nina spoke for Amy. Last year’s surplus was $76,000. The Finance Committee made suggestions for how to apportion it. Jody asked if the Finance Committee’s ideas should be amended to use a specific $20,000 shortfall in one item. Nina answered that it’s too early to put stock in that shortfall. Diane asked about $15,000 for changing pews to chairs in the sanctuary. The Arts and Aesthetics Committee has been advocating for that change for years and Nina and many others would like to see the change happen for many reasons. Julee asked if the surplus would be used for social hall fireplace funding and Nina answered that the Finance Committee voted against using it for that right now. Jared was supportive of the Finance Committee’s recommendations. Jared made a motion to follow the recommendations of the Finance Committee and Jody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The congregation will be asked about the $15,000 for the chairs at the next congregational meeting.

**Executive director report.** Nina’s report was submitted electronically.

**Director of Community Education position.** Reisa reported that the job ad has been drafted and it will be distributed to appropriate Jewish organizations now or soon. Tracy asked if someone within the TBI community might be qualified, if supported academically and Reisa answered that she is focused on finding someone with a masters degree from outside the TBI community.

**Financials.** Nina filled in for Amy. Financials from the end of last year (June 30) are now reported. Elliot asked a question about Shabbat lunches.

**Nominating committee.** Jeff reported that he will head the (Board of Trustees) Nominating Committee and will be joined by Jared, Caitlin Roberts and Nathan Philips. Nominations are open through October 18. There is an official application form. Stefan Ostrach will replace Amy as treasurer, though she will remain on the Finance Committee. There is an application form going out to Talmud Torah students to find a new youth Board member or members.

**Membership drive.** Jeff is concerned about drop off on Our Shared Commitment giving. Along with maintaining energy behind Our Shared Commitment, he proposes a membership drive to interest Jews outside TBI to consider joining TBI. Elliot asked if the Membership Committee would work on this and Jeff said it’s premature to know if they or a special committee would work on this drive. Simultaneously, the Membership Committee needs new members and new
energy. Elliot suggested that full day preschool for TBI members can be a driver for new TBI membership. Jeff encouraged Board members to consider being part of a membership drive committee.

Other. Jeff said that Mindy will host a Board Hanukkah dinner again. Tracy said that the TBI kitchen water tastes bad and should be checked. Tracy asked a question about start time for High Holiday services and the rabbi explained that the start time is simply based on sundown and the proper start time for a holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

Recorded and submitted by Bruce Kreitzberg.