

BHBE Board Meeting Minutes 6/26/24 @ 8 PM - Youth Lounge and Hybrid

Present: Harris Miller, Gail Swerdlik, Cynthia Lerner, Elle Rousso, Ellen Sered, Bev Reinglass, Joan Meyers, Rochelle Leff, Marsha Lyons, Fred Rosenwasser, Gail Schniederma, Carter Greene, Larry Plawsky, Jessica Littmann, Fran Diamond, Ira Dubin, Greer Braun, Steve Levin (Zoom), Allison Kamen, Carla Banoff, Robin Smulson (Zoom)

Excused Absence: Carol Pellish, Shoshanna Reynolds

Clergy: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane

Congregants Present: Stewart Miller, Ken Cohen, Andrea Graham (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Bev Reinglass motioned to approve the May meeting and the June special meeting minutes

Joan Meyers seconds.

All said "I" and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Rabbi's Report - Rabbi Crane: He gave his De'Var Torah

We are going to be collaborating with the Winnetka Covenant Community Church. The first event was this week; 100 people from BHBE and Winnetka Covenant Community Church were hosted by BHBE/Social Action for a service project to benefit Holiday Heroes.

Community conversations are scheduled for later in the summer. We'll take turns hosting.

Held Rituals in transition on tefillin.

Grandparents and Special Friends Shabbat was very successful on June 22nd.

Baby naming on June 22nd.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner: Wrote to Niles Township-Ezra Habonim. Working on getting feedback/answers from their president.

Sunshine fund - request to donate \$36 (covers sending gifts/food to a Board Member who's had a death in the family or an illness, and/or a simcha. Fund was depleted.) Mail check, Zelle or Venmo to Cynthia.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: Thank you to those who attended the gala. Very successful fundraiser. We raised about \$51,000! Donations, silent auction and tickets were up. Ad book and tributes were slightly down. The team was successful working on the gala.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn: Log in to ShulCloud and look at the calendar at event volume. Lots of things coming up. Three employees will be on vacation throughout July. The custodial team will cover Percy. Marcy Eskin will be out of town for July - newsletter is being worked out. Margo Schwartz-Newton will work communications for the month of July. We'll hire

her permanently if things go smoothly. Jackie Ernest will be out for a week in July. Will also set up a volunteer list for those who'd like to help in the office. We are phasing out the bulletin, articles will be in the weekly newsletter.

Please let Michael know if you want to keep your bio or send in a new one.

Sisterhood - Greer Braun: Raised over \$44,000 for the synagogue. New Years fundraising coming up. Rummage sale in November, 2024. The rummage sale earlier in the year was successful. Rumor on a Jewish women's group that Beth Hillel will close. Barbara Ungar clarified that we'll remain open. Discussion on Niles Township-Ezra Habonim. Could also look at non-religious facilities. Need to do research and look at zoning. They have interest in the area near Room and Board. Will send out quarterly announcements. Michael Kahn stated it'll be included in the newsletter.

Vice President - Jessica Littmann: Thank you to everyone that served on the board and contributed to BHBE.

Working with Michael Kahn, Cynthia Lerner and Wayne Caplan on potential properties. Looking at multiple options including Niles Township-Ezra Habonim. Parking is one reason we eliminate options. We'll discuss this further in July. Weekly call with Wayne Caplan for updates. New committee to evaluate financial advisors and money managers. This should be outsourced due to the amount of money that must be managed in an endowment. Money manager who works with nonprofits and a two-women team that works with nonprofits/synagogues. Important to invest and manage our money going forward.

Michael Kahn stated that it's recommended per USCJ that we should be in a building that's 12,000-15,000 square feet. It must be ADA compatible. We would need to update a building to code including ADA. Would need to be within 3 miles of 3220 Big Tree Lane. Building was sold. We have a \$3.5 million investment. Places the committee toured: Rental on Old Glenview Road west of the Edens Expressway 6,000 square feet, \$162,000 a year. Would need zoning to have it become a synagogue. Would need \$25,000 for attorney fees/review. Bakers Square location won't consider us because the Village of Wilmette wants tax revenue and won't rezone. Bess Hardware on Willow Road \$3.5 million. Northfield won't consider us as a buyer because they want tax revenue. Convent was \$7 million - to be looked at.

Bank in Skokie at Dempster/Skokie Blvd - there's a land lease - difficult to deal with. North Shore Meats and Delis Building on Ridge Road in Wilmette - 10,000 square feet - looked at. Building for sale at \$720,000 - bad condition. CVS in Skokie on Dempster at 13,000 square feet - will ask Wayne Caplan.

Old Orchard and Edens Plaza are too expensive. Zoning and rent will be difficult. Temple Jeremiah in Northfield - tabled - has lots of parking. Treasurer Island property is in dispute on Ridge Road in Wilmette. Lake and Wilmette Avenue church is willing to rent - very churchlike and only street parking. Not convenient, but good facility, multipurpose room with lots of natural lighting. Rabbi Crane will talk to Pastor Hawkins about space at the Winnetka Covenant Community Church. A spreadsheet will be shared for those who have questions on the building search to end rumors.

Membership - Michael Kahn for Shoshanna Reynolds: Please reach out if you need financial assistance or to renew membership. Those who resigned had personal reasons. Exit interviews are held by Shoshanna. Many enrollments so far.

Academy - Allison Kamen: On summer vacation. Hedva Yitzchak is preparing for next year.

Ritual - Robin Smulson: Let's keep the committee going. Harriet Robbins-Ost will take over next month.

No Old/New Business to Report

Adjournment

Fran Diamond motioned to adjourn at 8:30 pm.