

BHBE General Board Meeting Minutes 6/28/23 @ 7:30 PM - In-Person at BHBE in Spak

Present: Harris Miller, Carter Greene, Ellen Sered, Joan Meyers, Greer Braun, Cynthia Lerner, Jay Goldstein, Fred Rosenwasser, Robin Smulson, Jessica Littman, Harold Primack, Gail Schniederman, Gail Swerdlik, Bev Reinglass, Shoshanna Reynolds, Carla Banoff, Minnie Goldsmith, Susan Kay, Leah Buchbinder, Ira Dubin, Carol Pellish, Dan Meyer, Michael Lehrer, Judy Levey, Marsha Lyons

2023-2024: Adam Goldfarb, Elly Rousso

Excused Absence: Dianne Goldman, Rochelle Leff, Steve Bucksbaum, Allison Kamen, Jonathan Clemons, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Helen Stopek, Keri Bahar

Clergy/Staff: Michael Kahn
Rabbi Crane is on vacation.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Jay motioned to approve the May minutes
Bev Reinglass seconded
They were passed unanimously.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner

Cynthia thanked the Gala Committee and the Pride Committee on an outstanding job! Mazel Tov!

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn:

New past president's plaques were installed.
A new family, who were recently married at BHBE, joined.
State of Illinois non-profit papers need to be straightened out.
Wedding potentially in 2024 from outside our synagogue - declined due to lack of staff.
Balanced budget, but need more staff.
Slightly reduced rate with USCJ based on membership
17 academy kids registered. The sooner people register, the sooner we receive payment. Board members are encouraged to register now.

350 members in 2022 34 are automatic (comped, staff or chesed.) 48 people have registered. All money should be in by Dec. 31st (can take payment plan).

Lots of issues at BHBE and the parsonage. Plumbing issue in the academy (no resolution has been determined.) BJBE hired their own plumber for an estimate. Could be thousands of dollars... \$1000 of electrical work, HVAC system in Men's Club went out and was repaired \$5100.
Sewage backup into parsonage ("clean out" \$10,000) plus \$8,000 damage (\$10,000 deductible). Patio staircase was rotted and replaced at \$1800. Dead tree limbs at the parsonage. (\$1000 estimate)
Total on buildings' maintenance: \$41,000 estimate.

We have a \$300,000 mortgage (interest only payments). Michael Kahn will do more research on ownership of the building.

Cynthia led a discussion on the Future of the Building:

54,000 square feet (30,000 for the synagogue and 21,000 is the pre-school wing)
15,000 square feet for proposed new building

1. David Cohen and Wayne Caplan to work with a developer. Would the builder buy our property and build homes and also build us a synagogue? It would involve a zoning change with Wilmette. No cost investigating this.
2. Engage a real estate broker who would earn money from the sale. (No charge up front. Is the building saleable?)

Must be approved by the board and then the congregation. It's important to stop the rumors.

Other possible ideas will be reported to the board by Cynthia. Other synagogues have lended their support. We are not anywhere near selling and/or renting another facility yet.

July 7th, 2023 Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago is having a meeting with president's and Rabbis to figure out how they can help north shore synagogues.

If everything is sold, we would move. Items from our building that we want would be discussed by committees.

Cynthia proposes the two options presented above. If there is no movement on either proposed idea between July 15th and Oct. 15th, we will consider hiring an architect to evaluate other options.

It was passed unanimously.

Michael Lehrer - Treasurer's Report: We'll continue working within the new budget. Please send information to Adam Goldfarb (new treasurer) starting in July. Michael was thanked for serving 7 years on the board.

Sisterhood Report - Great Braun: Rummage sale at the beginning of August. Please consider shopping at the rummage sale. This year Sisterhood donated \$60,000 to BHBE.

Vice President's Report - Jessica Littman: Please "Like" our Facebook page. She would like to post pictures, events, etc. Please send it so she can post it.

Jay Goldstein: Working on the BHBE constitutional bylaws. Should be done by September. Two new people joined Legacy Circle. We had successful Legacy Shabbat.

Larry Plawsky - Ways and Mean's Report: \$50,000 raised from the gala (\$41,000 in 2022). Went from four hours to a three hour event. No change in quality of food from Zelda's. (Marsha Lyons worked with them.) Silent auction took place. Committee did a great job with great attendance (136/150 came - all paid.) Positive feedback. Event is being worked on with Cantor for a concert at the end of 2023. Kickoff high holiday appeal at beginning of August and possible winter event. Working on a program to raise \$65,000 for our 65th Anniversary.

Robin Smulson - Ritual Committee: Need more people to attend morning and evening minyan. Weekday Zoom in the evenings. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday on Zoom at 7 AM. In-person at 7 AM Monday/Thursday, and Rosh Hodesh and fast days. Sunday in-person at 9 AM. On American Federal holidays, minyan is at 9 AM.

Harold Primack - Building and Grounds: As fiduciaries (board members), look at what's best for the shul and look at the financial issues. Expect changes down the road. Should look at cash flow including interest for building mortgages.

Cynthia suggests calling Gail Schniederma, who is leaving the board, regarding programs so we can announce them in the local media. Thank you to Susan Kay and Dan Meyer who are also leaving the board.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 19th at 7:30 PM in-person. Meeting will be in-person except December-March, when they will be zoomed.

New Business:

Greer Braun suggests a sign outside the building to attract members.

No Old Business

Susan Kay motioned to adjourn
Bev Reinglass seconded
It passed unanimously at 8:50 PM