

BHBE General Board Meeting Minutes 29.10.24

Present: Carla Banoff, Jon Clemons, Ken Cohen, Tim Comar, Laurie Feinstein, Adam Goldfarb, Andrea Graham, David Greenstein, Joan Kripke, Rochelle Leff, Cynthia Lerner, Jessica Littmann, Joan Meyers, Stewart Miller, Harris Miller, David Mogul, Shoshanna Reynolds, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Fred Rosenwasser, Elly Rousso, Gail Schneiderman, Barbara Ungar, Irv Zagorin

Clergy/Staff: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane, Cantor Roytman

Congregants: Lia Niederberger, Shelly Reis

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Approval of the minutes:

Barbara Ungar motioned to approve the minutes.

Tim Comar seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Discussion of Littles' Programs marketing

High holiday services attendance remotely

David Greenstein motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Shoshanna Reynolds Seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mission Touch - Andrea Graham

De'Var Torah - Rabbi Crane

President's Report - Jessica Littmann

Consent Agenda Discussion - Thursday night prior to the next board meeting.

Consent agenda item turn in and board meeting reminder the Monday prior.

Important that everyone has their BHBE emails set up.

High Holiday Appeal - Fran Diamond will give a full report at the November board meeting.

Important to contribute donations.

Cantor's contract is with Cantor Roytman

Membership retention, engagement and trending themes - Survey to all members with a way to contact BHBE and/or congregant. Also, have community conversations.

Annual High Holiday Review - Date TBD

Real Estate Search - 5255 Golf Road 32 parking spaces with street parking - non-binding LOI Submitted - \$1.3 Million asking price - \$1.025 Million was offered - Hear back later in October/November

Traffic study would be required by Skokie, then due diligence and zoning process.

High holiday services would be hosted elsewhere - looking at 2026 spaces.

3434 Central Street, Evanston, 54 parking spaces, 1.63 acres, \$2 million asking price - Unity Church of the North Shore (Central and Gross Point near Crawford) - Zoned as a religious facility (Evanston, Wilmette, Skokie). 20,000 square feet - deferred maintenance, no disability accessibility. A non-binding LOI will be sent to the sellers. Walk through with an architect and general contractor.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn

Membership Presentation - Net membership dropped over the last few years. 317 membership units in FY25 so far. 289 total paid memberships. Membership revenue compared to "join/resign" report for the first time ever. No consideration would mean \$82,600 in revenue. Gave away \$25,221.50 in "consideration." Net loss in revenue was \$57,378.50.

11 membership units joined BHBE in FY25. Full revenue would have been \$38,750.

Consideration was \$16,100. Actual income is expected to be \$22,650.

Important to focus on retention and engagement of our current members. Membership numbers are important for decision making. Lots of consideration given to members.

How is our retention or lose of membership percentage wise in relation to other congregations in the area? Ours is comparable to other synagogues in the USCJ. Jessica will get more information.

New Member Vote

Shoshanna Reynolds motioned to have Rachel Tannenbaum as a new member.

Irv Zagorin seconded.

Motion was approved with one abstention.

New Business

Congratulations to Cantor Roytman on his new song.