

Congregation Beth David Board Meeting
MINUTES
November 20, 2013

PRESENT:

David Hoffman, President
Joanne Cornbleet, IPP
Dan Skilken, EVP
Lee Hirsch, VP Finance
Vivian Golub, VP Admin
Michael Sinensky, VP Ed
Howard Fine, VP Ritual

Andrew Passett, Treasurer
Cathy Beyda, Rec Sec
Howard Pomerantz, Fin Sec
Steven Levin, DaL Adult Ed
Ian Kass, DaL Finance Cmte
Bryan Ferguson, DaL Soc Act
Bob Baird, DaL

Elizabeth Batson, DaL
Barbara Green, DaL
Arthur Singer
Tanya Lorien, Dir Admin

Guests: Stephen Kinsey, Andrea Ammerman, Judy Holtzman, Wendy Askenas

1. Welcome 7:35 - 7:37 p.m.

2. Good and Welfare 7:37 - 7:42 p.m.

First	Last	Death: Relationship	Name	Date of Issue
Rick	Parrish	Mother	Lillian Parish	10/24/13
Irwin	Solomon	Wife	Hope Solomon	10/25/13
Stephanie	Kass	Grandmother	Molly Strozer	10/29/13
Rochelle	Alhadeff	Mother	Florence Speyer	10/29/13
Beth	Park	Step-Father	Artigas Pereyra	11/01/13
Ken	Friedman	Self	Ken Friedman	11/05/13
Kate	Fox	Mother	Zina Tabachnikova	11/06/13
Agnes	Grossinger	Self	Agnes Grossinger	11/09/13
Rabbi Daniel	Pressman	Brother	Joel Pressman	11/18/13
First	Last	Birth: Relationship	Name	Date of Issue
Renata Zaliznyak & Rivka	Shenhav	Granddaughter	Adi Dolev	10/16/13
Steve & Rita	Schlosser	Grandson	Maxwell Daniel Schlosser	11/03/13

Congratulations also to Viviane on her 50th wedding anniversary and to Bob on his granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah.

Minyan this coming Sunday and Monday will be held at Rabbi Pressman's house.

3. Consent Agenda: 7:42-7:43 p.m.

- a. Approval of minutes from 10/23/13 meeting
- b. Review and Approval of committee reports
- c. Board vote regarding endowment fund:

To elect Bill Beyda to the Congregation Beth David Endowment Foundation, to replace Dan Skilken's vacancy as General Trustee, pursuant to Bylaws, Section 2.1 and 2.2.

Copies of the relevant sections were attached to the meeting agenda.

4. Board Training

7:43 – 8:20 p.m.

Joanne Cornbleet and Howard Fine led a discussion on chapter three of *Sacred Strategies* (Visionary orship: T'fillah that Engages). Conservative and reform synagogues use different strategies for change.

What metrics can we use to measure how CBD is doing? Should we measure attendance at services? Barbara Green counts how many people are at services each Saturday. What are the demographics of those who attend?

5. Membership Report/Welcoming of New Members (Andrea Amerman) 8:20-8:10 p.m.

The Membership Committee is in charge of staffing a booth at Santana Row on 12/4. It needs four volunteers. Please send Andrea an e-mail if you are able to help. Information sheets will be available at the table. There also will be a craft for children.

Andrea presented the following membership report:

Membership	497	As of October 23, 2013
New/Approved Welcomed at Last Meeting	+2	Evgeny and Anna Margolis Rimma Zaraysky
Resignations	-4	Robert Silverman (Deceased) Ken Friedman (Deceased) Agnes Grossinger (Deceased) Rita Cherkassiky (No Reason)
Total	495	As of November 20, 2013

For approval tonight: Tal and Ilana Lavian

Motion to welcome: Made by Viviane Golub; Seconded by Elizabeth Batson. Motion passed with a *unanimous vote*.

Andrea mentioned that two other households are considering membership.

6. Noten Yad Clarifying Motion

8:24-8:25 p.m.

Resolved: that the Noten Yad committee may affiliate with PACT (People Acting in Community Together) at its own cost and expense, with no financial liability attached to Congregation Beth David.

Made by: Bob Baird

Seconded by: Barbara Green

Vote: For: 13 Oppose: 3 Abstain: 0 *Motion passed*

Background: At the 8/21/2013 Board Meeting, the following motion was not approved by the Board:

The board approves Beth David's Noten Yad committee's continuing participation and membership in

PACT from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. \$1,500 of the \$5,000 yearly membership fee shall be paid from the Membership Committee's budget, and \$3,500 must be obtained through donations.

It was unclear to Noten Yad whether it could still work with PACT if it raised the necessary funds on its own. Noten Yad is willing to undertake the financial responsibility, and indemnify CBD from any financial liability vis-a-vis PACT.

Discussion: Dave Hoffman noted that Larry Yellowitz, who was unable to attend the meeting, would still speak against the motion as he does not believe it is in the synagogue's best interest. David Graubart would also speak against the motion. Others were comfortable with Noten Yad being involved if the committee is able to raise the necessary funds.

A question was asked regarding how the synagogue would be listed on PACT's website if Noten Yad raised the funds itself. CBD would be listed the same way it has been listed in the past.

7. Treasurer/Finance Report (including Campaign Report and Building Project Report)

Andrew Passett/Lee Hirsch/Steve Schlosser/Dan Skilken

8:37-9:14 p.m.

Ritual is under budget but is not using outside contractors.

A question was asked about how the Oneg fund is doing. It is doing well. In the past, we estimated that 150 people would attend lunch. Now we plan for 100-125 attendees. We are trying to get more people to sponsor Onegs, even on a partial basis. A suggestion was made to inform religious school parents know that they can contribute, particularly during weeks where religious school is held on Saturdays.

Dan Skilken discussed the building project. The following referendum will be considered at the annual board meeting.

Motion: The Congregation empowers the Board to:

- (1) create a Capital campaign Committee with the purpose of raising \$6.1 million;
- (2) spend up to \$5.1 million to remodel the building, starting the construction phase only after the Congregation has obtained committed pledges totaling \$5.1 million; and
- (3) set aside the remaining \$1.0 million to fund an endowment for the long-term maintenance of the building.

Made by Dan Skilken

Seconded by Lee Hirsch

Vote: 15 in favor, 0 oppose, 1 abstain *Motion passed*

Background: The finance committee was charged with developing a referendum to put before the Congregation at the December 15 annual meeting. The goal is to send the referendum to the Congregation before the meeting, and to obtain buy-in at the meeting. We want to start the capital campaign at the meeting.

CBD already has received committed pledges in the amount of \$2,668,000. This is 53% of \$5.1 million estimate for the project (or 47% of \$6.1 million estimate, which includes the \$1 million endowment). An additional six figure pledge may be in the works. We hope to walk into the annual meeting with approximately \$3 million in commitments. If donations are earmarked for the endowment, they will not

count toward the \$5.1 million.

This coming Friday, CBD will seek approval from the City of Saratoga's Planning Committee. Originally, our application included a property subdivision. CBD could make approximately \$2.7 million selling the lots. The Planning Committee objected to the subdivision as it could trigger a Measure G citywide vote. We decided to take the subdivision off the application.

Building and selling houses would have taken pressure off fundraising but would have delayed our plans. Rabbi Pressman believes we will be able to raise the necessary funds and is committed to making it work before he retires.

The \$5.1 million figure includes a 10% overrun. If we complete the project on budget, the extra funds will go into the endowment. We do not need to raise the full endowment right away.

If we decide to build and sell houses on the property, we will need to take another vote. One donor is willing to fund the architectural design and the Planning Committee approval process. These donors are taking a risk.

Neighbors adjacent to the synagogue were invited to a meeting to discuss the project. Eight to ten households were invited, and three attended. It was a very nice and amicable meeting.

Members who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting can submit absentee ballots. However, they will not count towards making a quorum.

8. Education

9:14 – 9:23 p.m.

A. School Programs (Michael Sinensky)

The Jewel program is starting to bring in members. The Miracle Mashup was well attended.

Some terrific youth programs are planned, and the teen programs are moving forward. TMT is going strong with 27 teens.

There are some issues that still need to be addressed, but things are looking up.

B. Adult Education (Steve Levin)

The 12/17 Conversations in Jewish Learning speaker is Daniel Jacobs.

Dr. Jehon Grist will be the Scholar in Residence February 20-23, 2014. Many programs are planned.

C. Youth (Dave Graubart and Bob Baird)

Kadima is going well with 23 paid members. This is up from 10 members last year.

USY's first event was a Havdalah, bowling and pizza party with Sinai. Six CBD teens attended the Regional Fall Kinnus. Two CBD teens are planning to attend the International Convention in New Orleans.

The Adelbergs continue to volunteer as advisers, but we are looking for a paid adviser. Three candidates

were interviewed but none worked out. One more will be interviewed tomorrow night. We want to find someone that will continue into next year. CBD has 23 kids in 7th grade who will be eligible to join next year. We won't use entire budget this year because no advisor.

9. Admin (Tanya Lorian and Vivian Golub)

9:23-9:26 p.m.

The Office is making some pro-active changes to event planning process. If you are planning an event you should go to the website. The forms change – for example, they now include deadlines. If the deadlines are met, CBD has time to do publicity.

10. Ritual (Howard Fine)

9:26-9:27 p.m.

We are starting to plan for the rabbinic search. A committee meeting will be held in December to discuss.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Beyda
Recording Secretary