

Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

5/21/2015

Present: David Borsykowsky, Michael Schaal, Peter Pelaia, Jeff Potash, Peggy Munro, Abby Rosenthal, Gary Visco, Sharon Panitch, Mitch Cypes, Joanna May, Rabbi Joshua, Basha Brody (phone), Miriam Sturgis (phone)

Absent: Vivien Rabin Brown, Liz Kleinberg, Joey Bergstein

Guests: Michael Rosenthal, Harvey Klein

Meeting was quorate and called to order at 5:41PM.

D'var Torah

Rabbi Joshua delivered the D'var Torah.

Update on Vivien Rabin Brown

Peter updated the Board on Vivien's status. She is doing very well. Should be able to go to rehab next week. Peter will keep us posted on Caringbridge.

Rabbinic Search and Transition

Jeff reviewed the message he had received from Rabbi Jonah Geffen indicating he would not be accepting our job offer, in favor of a position at a synagogue closer to his home in Manhattan. We do not have any other viable candidates at this time. Rabbi Joshua's contract expires at the end of March 2016, the agreement was clear that he would only receive a "culminating sabbatical" if and when the new rabbi is hired before that point. Jeff noted that we should still be sensitive to what Rabbi Joshua is going through.

Rabbi Joshua addressed the Board. He expressed his upset that Rabbi Jonah was not going to come to OZ and that he would not be receiving his hoped for "culminating sabbatical." He had bought a second house in Portland, Maine. He had said goodbye and felt he had a sense of closure with the Hebrew School children. He indicated that he would not go back into the Hebrew School. He expressed his sense of the difficult position he was in as a "lame duck" and that it was challenging to "hold the line." He expressed that he needs the congregation's help to fulfill certain of his job responsibilities in the coming year and needs time off. He asked that the Board hire an interim rabbi to start this summer so that he might still receive his year off, with pay. Rabbi Joshua indicated that he knows it was clear that the sabbatical was not guaranteed and was dependent on finding a new rabbi. He took the events in the winter as more of a certainty that we would be hiring Rabbi Jonah, and so proceeded to buy his 2nd home. He had the sense that the sabbatical would be healing for him for the difficulties and bad treatment he has received from OZ over the years and that losing the sabbatical will have the opposite effect.

Discussion followed.

Gary motioned and Mitch seconded that the discussion continue in executive session at 6:18. Motion carried.

Gary moved to recess executive session. Michael seconded. Board recessed executive session at 7:30.

Executive Director's Report

- Can still use help soliciting online auction donations with Vivien injured.
- Mural has been moved.
- Reminder of dinner in honor of Kathy Chasan on June 5th.
- Congregational meeting June 7th.
- Religious Committee will be revising some of the language in the guidelines document which will come back to board for approval.
- Melanie Kessler resigned from Chavurah coordinator position. Will still be on board to lead alternative middle school program.
- Need to pass a resolution to move from UBS to Raymond James to manage endowment. The same advisors will be managing our investments.

Peggy motioned that we transfer our endowments from UBS to Raymond James staying under the management of the Catamount Financial Group. Gary seconded. Motion carried.

David motioned, be it resolved that the President Jeff Potash, Vice President Liz Kleinberg, Treasurer Peggy Munro, and Secretary Basha Brody or any authorized officer acting individually, be and they are hereby authorized to sell, assign, transfer and/or deliver any and all stocks, bonds or other securities now or hereafter registered in the name of this Association. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

YJ Update from Abby

Attendance has been increasing. Rain garden was a success. Abby and Holly ? are co-presidents. They want to start adding "Israel Updates" to their meetings. Happy with how events went this year. Receiving feedback and making necessary changes.

Budget discussion

Peter reviewed some line items that have changed.

One of the reasons that our apparent income has not come close to projection is that much of the fundraising that was done last year went toward specific projects.

Sharon moved to approve the budget. David seconded. Budget passed unanimously.

New Business

Michael reminded the board that on June 7th during the congregational meeting we will be presenting R. Joshua with our gift and dedicating the Holocaust garden to him. Garden dedication will occur after congregational meeting but before eating. Michael and Yoram would like to refresh and renovate the Holocaust garden. A site plan will be donated by a landscape architect, Keith Wagner of Wagner Hodgson and will be available by the June 7th meeting.

Basha reminded us that Saturday is Judy Hershberg's 80th birthday. Special kiddush after service. Please try to come.

David moved to go back into executive session. Joanna seconded. Continued recessed executive session at 8:15 PM.

Peggy moved that we move out of executive session. Gary seconded. Moved out at 9:15.

Jeff will be sending a letter to the congregation explaining that R. Jonah Geffen has withdrawn his application for Senior Rabbi.

Peggy moved to adjourn. Michael seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.