

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CONGREGATION SHIR LIBEYNU

December 15, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

The 519

Chaired by Roman Konoplev-Esgenburg – Treasurer

Draft Minutes

1. General Welcome by Rabbi Goldberg (Read by Jamie Flagal)
2. Minutes of Last Year's AGM
 - a) Corrections
 - i. Page 4, Section 4 b - High Holiday revenue was down slightly
 - b) Questions:
 - i. How much is slightly in reference to Page 4, Section 4 b. Natalie reported approximately 4%
 - ii. Page 6, Section 4 j - A member asked about general expenses in the financials which are not broken down. Natalie explained that staff fees are confidential and the board does know the details.
Approval of Minutes subject to corrections in 2a) above, Moved by Donna Frank, Second by Ilana Teitelman; Approved
3. President's Report – Report by Shlomo Gleibman (read by Roman Konoplev-Esgenburg in Shlomo's absence)
Approval of President's report. Moved by Eden Nameri, Second by Elizabeth Abraham; Approved
4. Treasurer's Report – Presented by Roman Konoplev-Esgenburg
 - a) Questions
 - i. Where are salaries?: They are in general expenses.
 - ii. Lots of items left at the end of Kiddish and it is expensive to put on, could we provide less? It is ongoing challenge to predict numbers and we want to ensure there is enough. We have found cheaper sources to provide the kiddish, which has helped with keeping costs in check.
 - iii. Does the shul usually lose money: No, most years there have been a surplus but that could change if High Holiday sales decrease.
 - b) Comments
 - i. It was explained that we have good reserve but we may need it should HH tickets sales go down and also for capital items.
 - ii. A member commented that we need to find out why membership has gone down. Natalie corrected that this year membership went back up although not to 2017 numbers. A member suggested that younger people prefer Friday night services to Saturday morning: It was explained that we have to work within what our Rabbi is willing

to do and scheduling must be done months in advance. This can be addressed with the new Rabbi and board.

- iii. Comment that financials should include a breakdown of what the expenses are: It was explained the majority are salaries and general expenses such as insurance, office, telephone, storage, mailbox etc. *It was requested that when financials are handed out next year, that there is a listing of the type of expenses that general expense include. Natalie made note to do this for next year.*
- iv. Someone asked about the sale of First Unitarian. The building has been sold but First Unitarian will be using it until at least the end of 2020 and so we can rent from them until then. They are searching for a new location and we may be able to use their new facility.
- v. A member suggested that the Jewish Congress has access to Torahs from shuls that have closed – *Natalie will look into that.*
- vi. Correction to financials handed out - Total Capital Assets for year ending June 2019 should read \$6599. All the other numbers are correct.

*d) Motion to approve Treasurer's report with the correction to the capital assets on the balance and to indicate that the general expenses include items as indicated in 4-b-iii above, Moved, Jonathan Silin, Second, Jacquie Buncel
Vote: Approved*

5. Education Committee Report – Report Given by Jonathan Silin, member of education committee and volunteer education director

a) Adult Education programming has been curated by our member Carol Zemel. Almost every service has a speaker after the kiddish and we had two education programs with Daniela Geshundheit. An adult beginners' Hebrew class just ended. There will likely be another class in the winter to complete the rest of the aleph bet and possibly some more advanced lessons. The school program was based on Torah, visual Midrash and an art component. Session closed with reading books about older Jewish children and problems they encountered. There is a focus on women in the Torah. Slightly lower attendance in fall session of school, partially because some children had graduated to bnei mitzvah program. There are 11 kids (a record number) in the bnei mitzvah class. We increased the number of sessions of the bnei mitzvah group. We have lots of positive feedback regarding the program which is really nice to see.

b) Questions

- i. How many kids have simchas? 6 in the past fiscal year. The kids must complete the course before their simcha. There are two families who are tentatively scheduled for fall 2020. Every year in the winter more families from the bnei mitzvah sessions group contact us regarding planning a simcha for later in the year or the following year.
- ii. How many people in adult Hebrew? 9 registered, 6 attend regularly.

- iii. Do families have to be members to do the bnei mitzvah program or school? They do have to be members to have the simcha but not the bnei mitzvah sessions.
- 6. Rabbi Search Committee Update - Presented by Amy Matchen (co-chair of the committee)
 - a) Committee selected candidates from a group of 11 to be interviewed. After first round of interviews the committee will focus on leading candidates.
 - b) There was lots of good feedback from roundtable and survey and the committee is making sure that congregants' views are covered in the interview process. About 60 people participated in the online survey and about 35 at the roundtable.
 - c) The goal is to hire in the spring. Committee is a search committee and will report findings about the candidates to the board. Board will hire.
 - d) Questions:
 - i. Are there any "wow" candidates: At least two. It will be tough to narrow down the finalist(s).
 - ii. Plan to introduce finalist(s) to congregation: Plan is still in the works and discussions are ongoing. Perhaps the person will present a Dvar Torah at an upcoming service, maybe greater involvement.
 - iii. Gender of candidates?: Pretty balanced.
 - iv. Queer candidates?: Yes and non-queer candidates
- 7. Introduction of Candidates/Affirmation or Election
 - a) Prospective board members spoke about themselves or their bios/remarks were read aloud.
 - b) *Motion elect the board for the upcoming year with the following members: Jamie Flagal, Mark Fine, Dahlia Klinger, Abbe Edelson, Karen Lior and Ilana Teitleman*
First, Eden Nameri, Second, Sharon Eisenberg; Vote: Approved
- 8. Other Business
 - a. The new board members were thanked for joining the board.
 - b. The outgoing board members were thanked for their service.
- 9. Adjournment of AGM
 - a. *Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 3:50 pm. Moved, Sharon Eisenberg; Second, Karen Lior; Vote: Unanimous approval*