

Annual Meeting Notes, September 25, 2016
Laurie Franklin

Welcome

Laurie Franklin

Nominating Committee Report

Toba Winston

All current board members are in odd year of either election or appointment to fill vacancy, so no board members are running this year.

Discussion:

Need a new treasurer to step up and have not been able to identify someone yet. Ya'el will continue to compile financial reports, which is the most daunting task for non-financially literate person. February through April, she will be off-grid during tax season. A new treasurer will need to supervise bookkeeper, sign checks and authorize transactions, keep a thumb on the pulse of Har Shalom's money. Starting immediately, Ya'el would like relief from signing checks for Har Shalom. Bert will step in to sign checks and is already authorized to sign checks.

David Cox offers himself as a possible candidate but he is doing good work as building chair, and we would like him to remain in that position. He has been on several non-profit boards, has an MBA, and has owned two businesses.

Decision to table the issue, with the understanding that Ya'el is Treasurer until the end of September, only. Our by-laws require us to have a new Treasurer in place by the November board meeting, see Article VII, section 5.d.

No later than the second regular meeting of the board after removal, resignation, or expiration of the term of the Treasurer, the board shall elect a new Treasurer. If this election shall be held at any time other than at the expiration of a term, the new Treasurer shall serve until the board elects a successor no later than the second regular board meeting after the next regular membership meeting.

Renovations

Toba Winston

Thanks to the twenty plus people who did all the hard work, including washing every wall. It looks so good.

Membership

Joy Earls

"It's been a good year". Enjoyed making phone calls, many good conversations. Being connected is what we want, desiring to build community. Membership list have been confusing. Fifty-four families or individuals paid membership last year. Joy feels we have missed a lot of people when lists were "cleaned up", because she

sees many folks around town who used to be on the contact lists but are no longer there. So, she has added back names. Joy would like to get newsletter name list and merge with membership list.

Discussion:

How do we make it a desire for people to walk into building?

Ask people to share their skills and talents.

It's important to ask people to join directly.

One-on-one contact is critical.

Financial status

Yael Winston

Fiscal statements are now posted on our web site. The fiscal year ended 6/30. We have a debt of \$650,00. Our first mortgage is a relatively new 20-year mortgage. Our second mortgage requires an annual payment. It is two years old and is a 10-year loan. We also have three personal loans from member, which are interest only or interest is forgiven. Technically, we have five mortgages.

We recently had to use building emergency reserve of \$10,000 to pay mortgage, taxes, and payroll. We are shorter on cash than in the past, "ran aground" unlike before. Income from our tenant pays the first mortgage. We have a \$24,400 balloon payment due on second mortgage in May. Our membership commitments cover operating expenses and payroll, but we have nothing to direct towards the May balloon payment and no accrual for November taxes.

Discussion:

How are contributions coming in? Do we offer auto-deduction as an option? Can we encourage people to use automated bill-pay and make monthly installment payments? Can we make our membership materials look more inviting by suggesting monthly amounts rather than a big, scary yearly amount?

Atidaynu Report

Sheehan Rosen

Last year, there were 15 students and four teachers. It worked well to do peer grouping of two groups. Begin with t'filah and dancing and finish with Hebrew. Restructured this year to fewer meetings/month because Sheehan needs to commit less time and would like someone to replace her. So, this year, the group will meet once a month, with more family participation, and will schedule additional special workshops and occasions for family and kids. Each session will begin again with T'filah and dancing and finish with Hebrew. In the middle, the groups will work on special projects together. Sheehan is talking to parents because once/month is not enough time for Hebrew.

This year, expect the group to be larger because there were 15 kids on the orientation day, including new families, and several regulars who are expected to

join the group were not there. The orientation went well, with visits from Joy and Laurie.

Discussion: Maybe new Hebrew club can get involved with Atidaynu Hebrew?

Adult Education: general discussion

- Hebrew club has just started and has met twice as of annual meeting.
- Bert has offered to do an Israeli dancing class or periodic session
- Mona and Lisa Stewart are both interested in creating a book club.
- Laurie proposes, on basis of interest, the following possibilities:
 - weekly beit midrash,
 - adult bnei mitzvah
 - Davenology
 - Becoming Jewish
- Library: call for return of books in weekly, donations for duplicates can finance new purchases
- Empower MT workshop for Atidaynu kids and parents about diversity
- Communication: do people know what we are offering through weekly and newsletter? Is decision to stop mailing hard copy serving us or not? Suggestion: for the 25 who used to receive by mail, send hard copy with query if they would like to continue to get it?
- Congregational trip to Israel, someday? Needs two-year lead time to arrange.

Community Action

Lida Running Crane

Set up one-day, seasonal events for community participation:

1. MLK Day
2. Lowell School Flagship program baking class
3. Poverello Center, volunteering to serve food
4. Tree planting
5. Used-book drive for youth
6. MIC food bank drive

In addition, Atidaynu helps with Family Promise by cooking, baking.

Concern that community does not participate widely in these events. Should we continue? Others urged, "yes, let's keep these and publicize better. It's still new to many people."

Communication:

- Publicize volunteer activities better
- Hard copy annual report to congregation: make one newsletter as "annual report"
- Better communication of annual membership commitment, with monthly amounts rather than yearly
- Create special events for new and renewing members?
- Open house for prospective members
- Send holiday cards

Fund Raising Ideas

- 10-year celebration fair, like Greek festival?
 - Food vendors or single caterer?
 - Tour of Har Sjalom
 - Music
 - Vendors
- Garage rental
 - Need tenant
 - Need to remove tree that is compromising foundation (note: this has been done)
- Building rental for special events, outside groups, sharing of building with another community?
- Finish the Torah?
- Hanukkah/holiday shuk this year because both holidays coincide?
- Mezuzah re-dedication after conclusion of renovation

Closing Blessing