

Chadeish Yameinu
Board of Directors Meeting
July 19, 2007
7:00 PM Aptos Fire Station

MINUTES

Attending: Howie Schneider (President); Batya Kagen (Vice President); Jan Leininger (Treasurer); Holly Blue Hawkins (Co-Secretary); Shira Belford; Ricardo Klein; Evelyn Bernstein; George Lewis; Barbara Nicoara; Community member Michael Yosef.

Absent: Philippa Gamse (Co-Secretary); Reb Eli Cohen.

Opening Nigun - Holly Blue Hawkins

Farewell to retiring Board members

Howie expressed appreciation for retiring Board members: Ricardo, Shira, Evie, Philippa, Holly. Shira will continue to be membership coordinator, Ricardo will remain in advisory role as attorney. Evie will continue with volunteerism. Holly will move to the Long-Range Planning Committee. Appreciations were expressed by various Board members. Evie recommended an exit interview for retiring Board members. There is no formal procedure in place, but retiring Board members were invited to speak. Evie spoke of process of becoming part of a Board as an evolving entity and stressed importance of making sure a lot of people from the community served are involved as volunteers, for the health of the Board and the community. Shira spoke on the transition of CY's governing body from Coordinating Council to Board of Directors, and the process of learning how to run a non-profit organization, with kudos to all involved. Ricardo, who has been on the Board since CY's beginning, reminded Board that Coleman Lyles of Camphill helped in making the identity transition from Coordinating Council to Board of Directors; and that keeping good Minutes is an essential part of running a healthy organization. He also volunteered to prepare an exit questionnaire for retiring Board members.

Election of Board officers for new term

A new slate of Officers was nominated and unanimously approved by the Board:

President - Howie Schneider

Vice President—(Barbara Nicoara will think about this position)

Secretary—George Lewis

Treasurer—Jan Leininger

Said new slate of Officers was unanimously approved by the Board.

Shabbat space for davvening

Howie read aloud an extensive email from Reb Eli: Unitarian Church in Corralitos just does not work, because it is too far south of critical mass of members. He also compared Center for Conscious Living (CCL) and Quaker Meeting House (QMH), with some challenges to each. Reb Eli's email included a detailed proposal for various

activities at various locations on a regular basis. Discussion followed. Budgetary considerations were also discussed. CCL offered \$100/night. QMH requests donation of \$75/hr (typically 3 hours/service). At 10/months to the scheduled year, there is a \$1,000 difference between CCL and QMH. Neither involves a contract. The Garden is \$15/hour.

The subject of finding a permanent home for CY came up again. Batya responded in-depth with recent research on possible long-term leased or owned spaces and said “we’re not there yet,” from a financial standpoint. Shira suggested that, when CY is ready to find a permanent space, we co-lease or co-own the space with compatible religious group.

Another challenge for next year: there are *five months* that have five Fridays in them; if we are cycling through the month, it could be confusing.

The Board voted to use the Center for Conscious Living as it’s principle Shabbat space by a vote of 6 in favor and 3 abstentions.

It was unanimously passed to move to CCL for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Fridays, 2nd Saturday of each month. Services will continue at The Garden on the first Friday of the month. It was also pointed out that, if we decide part-way through next year that the new arrangement is not working out for financial or other reasons, we have the option of changing to another facility.

Batya will communicate our decision with CCL; a small sub-committee of the Board will convene to come up with the most appropriate means of communicating the above decisions to membership.

Financials - Jan provided reports.

We are in the black; and have enough to cover Reb Eli for the High Holidays. Fund-raising letter and tributes brought in more than anticipated during the past month. Discussion focused on slow fund-raising months in the summertime and the importance of being ready for High Holidays. Half of the income is from membership and half is from donations, indicating that focused fund-raising is a very important part of the overall fiscal health of CY.

It was unanimously passed to accept the financial report.

Minutes of June 24,2007- approved by unanimous consent.

Annual dues letter - Shira

Membership drive letter should be sent out by August 15th. Distinction made that this is not a *Fund-raising* letter, but the annual membership renewal. Discussion raised on how much the suggested range should be. Suggestion raised to do an analysis of per-unit budgetary considerations; whether or not to raise the minimum suggested contribution; and the importance of growing the membership as a solution to financial need, rather than increasing the floor.

Motion was made and approved to raise the high end of suggested annual membership contribution to \$1,200. Diane will be asked to come up with volunteers to help with the membership mailing.

High Holiday budget

High Holiday's Committee discussed use of QMH for High Holiday's. Requested a budget of \$2,500. Reb Eli wants to redo the siddurim, discussion re how to cover that expense.

Motion: approve \$3,000 budget with 10% variance. Passed.

By-laws amendments

Discussion focused on membership involvement. Amendments were unanimously approved as presented

Board Member Job Descriptions

Descriptions as crafted by Shira and Ricardo were handed out to Board members; discussion ensued, but it was determined that more time for discussion is required; decision will be addressed at a future meeting.

Acknowledgments—

Lynn LeRose can no longer send out the contribution acknowledgments and so a new volunteer will be sought for the position.

Insurance—

Ricardo presented a letter from our insurance carrier. Nyak Insurance can no longer cover us, as we are a religious organization and therefore not appropriate for their client population. Ricardo is willing to pursue other avenues with our insurance broker and will report back. Unfortunately, the letter also informed us that our Torah is currently not insured.

Community-wide gathering

The board decided to have the annual membership meeting at the High Holiday Retreat. The meeting is to be a visioning for the future of CY. It will be on Sunday after the main body of the retreat. Attendance at the membership meeting without involvement in the retreat will be at no cost.

Proposed pre High Holiday Retreat

The board decided to pay \$100 each for Nina Lacey and Jonathan Siedel teaching at the retreat if between 20 and 40 people attend. If over 40 people attend the pay will be increased to \$200 each.

Closing Nigun - Shira

These minutes were taken by Holly Blue Hawkins, and Batya Kagan assembled and edited by George Lewis