

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
April 2, 2023
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Eva Pierce, Barry Blum, Mike Bernstone, Vic Greenspan, Joel Gimpel, and Sara Nealy

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman, Vivienne Aronowitz, Nella Silverman, Trina Yerlick

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Barry opened the meeting with a mi shebeirach prayer for those in need of healing.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the amended minutes of the March 5, 2023, board meeting were approved. A suggestion was made that extended reports provided by committees and not presented during the meeting be attached as addenda and need not be included in the body of the minutes. A brief discussion followed and there was consensus that the addendum attachment policy would accurately portray what was actually presented and discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was emailed to the board before the meeting.

Treasurer Mike Bernstone explained that donations earmarked for the Shabbaton with Rabbi/Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer and \$2,500 from a San Francisco-based foundation raised enough funds to cover miscellaneous expenses that were incurred during the event. R. Jessica Kate was paid \$5,000.

A question was asked about a \$30,000 difference between last year's and the current year's account; Mike Bernstone explained that was because of the Nitzavim funds provided to KBS. Upon motion made and seconded, the financial report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

All going well at HQCG. Alan Silverman pointed out that the facility is not as easily available to us, especially during weekdays, because of the private school using the facility; so it is important to coordinate with the HQCG office before attempting to plan an event there in addition to the dates already reserved for the year. Mike added that, even with the limited availability, HQCG is probably the most economical location for our events.

We have rented the Old A Events Pavilion for the April 5 seder. Because of their COVID infections, Alan & Nella will be unable to attend, but Vic, Aviva, Yehudah and Barry agreed to coordinate tasks to prepare the venue.

EDUCATION

There was discussion of families with school-age children in the area and the challenge of attracting them for Jewish education when the Hebrew school is resumed. Among the obstacles is finding these families and providing an education program that meets their needs and goals.

CEMETERY

Nothing new to report. Eva Pierce said she has visited the Beit Hashamayim cemetery section in Hilo, trimmed and weeded some of the gravesites and found, overall, it looks to be well-maintained. There was also some discussion about contacting the organizers of the "Abraham's Garden" cemetery on Oahu, to find out if there are some tips KBS can use. The Nitzavim visit may provide that opportunity.

WEBSITE

Nothing new to report on the website. Alan suggested we pursue other social media beyond Facebook to promote KBS activities; for instance, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok, which are currently more popular with younger users. He added that it would be helpful to find some young talent more familiar with these applications.

A suggestion was made that the emails with Zoom connection details be made briefer and not necessarily provide alternative log-in information, which may be confusing to some users.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Nothing new to report.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

Vivienne relayed information that the next NHC Erev Shabbat event will be April 14th. No details were provided.

NITZAVIM

Nitzavim committee members will be visiting Hawaii Island Jewish establishments on the East side May 16 and the West side May 17. Vic plans to join with them on the Hilo leg of the visit, which may include a stop at Beit Hashamayim, with Eva Pierce joining. There are still some questions about the schedule when they come to our side of the island. A luncheon is scheduled with Rabbi Gerlitzky and the Chabad community. Vic is contacting the HQCG to explore the possibility of meeting with them there after the private school is done for the day, in the late afternoon. It was suggested we could roll out the Aron Kodesh and set up some seating, to demonstrate where we usually hold services. Another suggestion was made to take the group on a short tour of other locations KBS has held services and events over the years before ending up at HQCG for our presentation. Barry requested that Vic communicate with Nitzavim chair Josh Levinson to set up a schedule and stressed the importance of board members attending the session.

SEDER April 5, 2023 OLD A PAVILION

Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Seder begins: 6:00 p.m.

Since Alan and Nella are unable to attend due to their COVID infections, Aviva, Vic and Barry made plans to go early on Wednesday and set up the tables and chairs. Once confirmed by Alan, Vic will pick up the keys from the county permits office and also the supplies assembled by Nella and Alan. Chef Amelia plans to arrive and begin her setup at 4PM and several KBS members will be there to assist.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY - APRIL 18, 2023

Sara Nealy sent a message that she hopes to show her film about our Holocaust Torah, "White Fire, Black Fire," on Kahilu Theater TV video stream on that date. KBS Annual Meeting - Barry suggested plans need to be made for the annual meeting, usually held in September or October. There was discussion about the challenge of recruiting new, younger members to take positions on the board.

SHABBAT ACHAREI MOT/KEDOSHIM April 29, 2023 10:30 a.m.
Trina has agreed to lead the service and Vic will set up the Torah service as Aviva will be off-island.

Location: HQCG
Leader: Trina Yerlick

Drash: ?
Torah: Vic, Shari?
Challah: Silvermans

Potluck to follow services.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Chanukah runs from December 8-15th this year. Barry suggested we plan our event for Sunday, December 10. HQCG is generally not available until late afternoon on Sundays because of other services held there. Alan will inquire about the availability of Hale Halawai, where we have held the Chanukah event in previous years. If it is available, he will book it for us.

REVIEW OF SHABBATON WITH RABBI/CANTOR JESSICA KATE MEYER

There was agreement that the weekend was very successful. Aviva and Yehudah attended all of the events and praised Rabbi Jessica Kate's musical talents and ability to get people involved. Barry suggested the names and contact information for those who attended the events be shared with KBS.

MAYOR MITCH ROTH

Alan pointed out that the county mayor issued a proclamation to honor an education day tradition begun by Chabad Rabbi Menachem Schneerson and he expressed concern that it is another example of Chabad being promoted as representing the entire Jewish community. Questions were raised about contacts with Mayor Roth and whether he has ever been invited to KBS events. Barry said he will be attending a Passover seder at the Peace Garden and Mitch Roth will be there, so it will be an opportunity to make contact with him.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held May 7 at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Silverman,
Board member