

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
December 3, 2023
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Barry Blum, Mike Bernstone, Vivienne Aronowitz, Joel Gimpel, Vic Greenspan, Sarah Kramer and Eva Pierce

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman

OTHERS

Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Mi shebeirach was sung for those on the board, Ruth Glatt whose husband, Myron, died this past week, and for all those who are suffering both in Israel and Gaza from the war there.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the November 5, 2023, board meeting were approved.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Barry set out in the written agenda for this meeting that the purpose of our monthly Board meetings is to manage the affairs of KBS. When rigid adherence to Robert's Rules of Order for the conduct of our monthly Board meetings may interfere with the above intentions, Roberts Rules 11th Edition p260 states: Suspend the Rules as follows: When an assembly wishes to do something during a meeting that it cannot do without violating one or more of its regular rules, it can adopt a motion to suspend the rules interfering with the proposed action. Barry asked to temporarily suspend the rules for the two most common such circumstances encountered at our meetings: change the order of the agenda and to prevent any member from proposing a motion during a specific discussion when and if deemed necessary by the President. The aim is to maintain a peaceful meeting environment. Joel made the motion to suspend the rules as stated above and it was seconded. The motion passed with one vote against.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Michael shared updates on membership dues and donations. Elaine questioned a \$3,000 increase in fixed assets on the balance sheet. Mike will have to look up the details. Joel inquired about the status of the membership directory. Mike is planning to update it by the end of the month and send to Alan for inclusion in the website. Barry asked if there were any additions to the ex libris bookplate fund, which there were not. Mike plans to call an online meeting of the Dues Committee this month.

Joel moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

Alan is waiting to hear approval from Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) about next year's rental dates.

WEBSITE

Alan noted there are new banners on the website: 1) new board members are welcome and needed and 2) to inform about the upcoming Chanukah party.

CEMETERY

The first ever service to bury cremated remains in Beit Hashamayim (BH) was led by Barry for Michael Emmons, grandson of the deceased. Eva also attended as well as Heather Rivera. Barry found out that Heather and her mother wish to be buried in BH but were informed by staff of Homelani that it was a complicated matter and instead sold them plots outside BH. Barry and Heather rectified this by filling out the proper paperwork, but it was very disturbing that Homelani was misinforming Jewish patrons. Barry asked if he could buy more lots contiguous to BH but Homelani has yet to respond. Sarah Kramer would like to buy a lot at the original price. There are two other members who are interested in buying plots. Mike and Barry will look into this and will get back to them.

Eva will follow up with Homelani regarding new fencing around BH before the New Year 2024. Barry explained that a fence without a vine or other greenery would be the only option until all plots are filled, as the greenery would need to be dug up and replanted every time a new burial took place.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

NHC has several events coming up. On December 12th at 4:30 pm in the North Pavilion at Hapuna Beach there will be a Chanukah beach party, candle lighting and nosh with Rabbi Sydney Mintz.

A Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Roz will be held at Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE) December 15th at 6pm. Barry plans on attending.

On January 5 Rabbi Sydney Mintz along with Rabbi Ryan Bauer will conduct a Kabbalat Shabbat at BAE at 6 p.m. and Havdalah at Hapuna Beach on 1/6 at 5 p.m. Isaac Zones, musician and lead singer of the band Shamati, will perform.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Jill Raznov is now Big Island case manager and community liaison for Jewish Community Services (JCS) of Hawaii. She has sent out several emails to inform the community of how she can help with social services and planning Chanukah or other Jewish celebrations. Vivienne thought she would be a good person to have on the KBS Board. Yehudah will ask her if she is interested in serving on the board.

Barry and Gloria Blum will contact Ruth Glatt to propose a virtual Shiva this coming week. Alan will be able to set up the Zoom connection, if this works out.

UPCOMING JEWISH OBSERVANCES

CHANUKAH PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 4-6 PM HQCG

Who will be coming? Barry and Gloria Blum, Alan and Nella, Mike and Ruth Bernstone, Elaine(will try), Joel and Jan Rae, Vivienne, Louise and Marvin Feldman (visiting) and Vic confirmed their attendance.

Need: lots of latkes, applesauce, sour cream, candles, menorahs, large aluminum trays, foil, dreidels, Chanukah gelt.

Music: Barry will check with Leslie Harlib. Alan asked if she could bring her keyboard as the piano drowns the other instruments. Joel, Yehudah and Marvin Feldman will add their instruments. Alan will provide sound system.

Donation box at the door.

Arnie Rabin will be the magician.

Pot luck.

SHABBAT VAYIGASH December 23, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG
Producer: R. Shari Berman, in person
Challah: Silvermans

SEDER

Reminder that we need to reserve a location if we are planning on having a seder this year. First night will be April 22, 2024; second night April 23.

Joel made a motion to table the discussion of seder. It was seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

HAWAII JEWISH LEADERS CONVENING

Vivienne is going to Zoom into this meeting Wednesday December 6 from 9-11 a.m. Yehudah may also attend.

RABBI ARONOWITZ

Barry spoke to Rabbi Aronowitz. He is not looking to be a High Holiday rabbi but a weekend of study sometime during the year.

REBECCA GOTTESMAN'S BROTHER

Yehudah said Rebecca is a member and her brother is a retired rabbi who will be here early in January, not our usual 4th Saturday shabbat, and who offered to lead anything we wanted. The Board was very interested in having an event with him. Yehudah will be in touch with Rebecca and see what can be set up.

JANUARY SHABBAT

Barry will be in touch with Priscilla Kostener to see if she is planning a visit to Kona in January and if she will be able to lead services.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting will be held January 7, 2024, at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary