

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
March 3, 2024
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman and Sarah Kramer

OTHERS PRESENT

Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Mi shebeirach was chanted for Eva's friend Phyllis in Albany, Aviva's mom Annette who is in the hospital, Sarah Kramer who is in the hospital, and for all in need of healing.

MINUTES

Joel noted that there were omissions of names of those who had made motions in last month's minutes, as follows: for accepting the January minutes, for tabling the Treasurer's report and for changing the date of the March shabbat from 3/23 to 3/30. Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the properly amended February 4, 2024, board meeting were approved. Nella will review the recording of the last meeting and insert the correct information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

The CD of our building fund came due and the interest accrued was deposited. The CD was renewed at 5% interest through Schwab, J.P. Morgan CD.

Joel moved to accept both the January and February Treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

The Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) still won't confirm any dates to rent their facility past June, 2024. Chuck FrumIn, the caretaker, and Tabetha Charest, who works in their office, said that it will probably be extended only on a month to month basis after June. A July date could probably be confirmed in May.

Since there is a bat mitzvah in July, Alan has put a down payment for rental of Kona Education Center (KEC), formerly Outdoor Circle, the 3rd Saturday of July. There was a request for a future date for a bar mitzvah which will have to wait until the future location of KBS is found. Yehudah noted we still need to amend the letter we send for non-resident, non-member bar/bat mitzvahs.

KBS will need to clean out our storage unit at HQCG when they no longer rent the facility to us. There have been no permits pulled for the restaurant that has been planned.

WEBSITE

Alan noted website continues to be updated and is planning a page by page update, e.g. since we are no longer sponsoring a community seder, mention of this on the website needs to be changed.

Barry, who is part of the KBS new location committee, will write an informational letter to the membership asking for ideas about where KBS might move in Kona. Alan will post the letter to the on-island mailing list.

BEIT ALOHA ELOHIM (BAE)

Vivienne informed the board of events at BAE. February 16-17, Rabbi Sydney Mintz's stepson, Arlo, celebrated his bar mitzvah. Cantor Roz Barak will conduct services on March 15. Franz Hillert will celebrate his bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 16. Rabbi Sydney will conduct services erev shabbat March 22. March 23 in the evening there will be a purim party with music, reading of the Megillah and hamantaschen. On erev shabbat April 5, Rabbi Sydney will conduct services. On April 22 there will be a seder, the first night of Passover, for a maximum of 100 people.

CEMETERY

Eva visited the cemetery and the fence is looking good. She has spoken to General Manager Josh, who is responsible for fence replacement and installation. Eva did not think much of the white vinyl option that he proposed. Our current fence is metal, which does deteriorate in our climate. She also thought white vinyl would stand out and might attract unwanted attention to our gravesites. KBS is not planning to expand our plots. The new fence, when installed after every plot is filled, will be expensive - approximately \$2,000. KBS owns two plots for \$1596, 3 plots for \$4240. There is one plot left owned by Homelani, price unknown.

Vivienne resigned in January from the Interisland Chevra Kadisha. Heather Friedman Rivera took Viv's place. Eva would like to retire as shomer of the cemetery at the end of the year and Heather offered to take over the responsibility. Barry would like the shomer to be a member of the Board.

It was noted that Una Greenaway may be interested in rejoining the board.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Aviva Plaut has traveled to Israel to be with her mother, Annette, who is in the hospital. Sarah Kramer is also back in the hospital.

Board members shared activities happening at other Jewish communities on our island. The Hilo congregation has reformed as Beth Or Hilo. Raquel Glassman, the facilitator on Island for Jewish Community Services (JCS) has been helping with this change. They meet at the Pahoia Community Center. She is also temporarily covering the Kona area until they find someone. Chabad had a hamantaschen baking class in Hilo. Jill Raznov, formerly JCS rep on island, started a shabbat luck potluck. Rabbi Rachel sent a message to her mailing list that included a rap video and offer of Reiki training. She is also going to tape memories of our 101 year old member and Holocaust survivor, Goldie Lefkowitz.

OLD BUSINESS

SCRAPBOOKS

Yehudah asked Mike Herbert and his son, Solomon, to work on digitizing the scrapbooks full of pictures and memorabilia from past KBS events. They agreed to payment of \$12/hour. Joel made a motion to authorize expenses up to \$500 to the Herberts for the archive of these documents. The motion was seconded and approved. An invoice from the Herberts was requested for the work done so far. Once it is on the Google drive, editing privileges will be assigned and perhaps an "edit party" can be planned to identify those in the pictures.

UPCOMING JEWISH OBSERVANCES

SHABBAT PARAH March 30, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG
Leader: Not decided (Barry or Shari or Trina)
Torah: Vic (will contact Shari)
Drash: Not decided
Challah: Silvermans

SEDER

Outreach letter to members requesting opening their homes to visitors for seder so far has gotten no responses. KBS will not have a community seder.

KBS services will be held the 3rd Saturday, April 20, which is shabbat hagadol.

RIDLEY MURRAY BAT MITZVAH July 20, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Since it is unknown whether we can plan the event at HQCG, Alan reserved the Kona Education Center, (KEC) previously known as the Outdoor Circle, for that date. Joel moved that we pay for accommodations at KEC in July if HQCG is not available. The motion was seconded and passed.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

HH committee will consist of Barry, Yehudah and Aviva Plaut, Elaine, Vic and Nella. Trina and Una will be asked to join. Barry will prepare a list of expectations for HH, e.g. Yehudah suggested four sermons should be expected. Rabbi Shari does not plan to come to Kona for HH. Cantor Jack Chomsky asked about this year and requested a letter of recommendation from us. Rabbi Daniel Lev's name came up also. KBS is in need of a place to have services in case HQCG unavailable. Barry does not plan to be President next year.

CZECH SCROLLS

This year marks the 60th anniversary of moving the scrolls to England from the former Czechoslovakia. Barry said there is a scholar in the Czech Republic who is helping with the celebration of that event and has asked for pictures of our Torah that Alan has provided. Barry hopes that if there are funds available a rededication of our Torah could take place on Simchat Torah, October 25. One caveat being Ironman would be taking place on October 26.

NEW BUSINESS

Alan noted there have been several inquiries to our website about the availability of weddings. Yehudah Plaut and Barry are the only members of KBS licensed to officiate at marriages. The question is, should this information be on our website?

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held April 7 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. The question of changing times of the meeting is open to input. Right now the current board is still agreeable to a 10 am start time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nella Silverman,
Secretary