

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

BOARD MEETING

Thursday August 24, 2023

Attendance: Stephen Ducar, Linda Tavano, Casey Flancbaum, Bob Lennard, Rabbi Geoff Dennis, Kenny Webman, Helena Shapp-Dossey, Don Dossey, Rachelle Cohen-Miller

Call to Order

Stephen Ducar

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Opening Prayer

Rabbi Geoff Dennis

Guest Presentation

Mitzvah Project

Lauren Greenberg and Julie Greenberg

Lauren's Bat Mitzvah Proposal: Why we should have a Certified Wildlife Habitat at CKA

Flower Mound (FM) is working to achieve certification as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat so the town is encouraging enrollment. CKA already has some things needed but would need to add a roosting/ Bird Box and water dish. Lauren would supply these and the cost to certify. Can CKA limit water use and do we use mulch? Per Steve already watering is limited to 2x/week per FM. Mostly used to protect foundation and for some grass and shrubs. There is limited mulching around the bldg. As a commercial building we do have to maintain it by keeping pests out. Grounds don't have pesticides with exceptions such as fire ants.

Lauren suggested a roosting box behind the basketball hoop in the tree. Suggested an owl box would be ideal as they catch rodents. Rabbi suggested a pole on the pergola that would attract owls but not allow squirrels in. He says it would be attractive to owls. Steve volunteered to build the owl box.

If a water dish is put out, how will mosquito prevention be handled. Plan is for a small bowl in the mulch on the ground to catch some water from sprinklers. Steve stated it must be very shallow, more like a plate. How would it be kept clean? Greenbergs have one now in their yard and it stays fairly clean. Self-sustainability would be ideal. We have rodents so we want to be sure it's hospitable but doesn't attract rodents. We don't see any issue with shallow bowls. Probably not on the ground but low. Board voted to approve the project.

Review and approval of the Minutes

Steven Ducar

Casey moved to accept the minutes, Kenny seconded, and the motion carried.

President's Report

Stephen Ducar

1. Had some fee abatement requests.
2. Lost some members.
3. Religious school started and so did Café Kol Ami.
4. Steve has been meeting with other similar size congregation presidents to share information and ideas. Next meeting is Sep 6.
5. Have a possibility for someone renting the building. Waiting for his contact to get back with him.
6. We as a board need to do what we can to keep costs down and keep ourselves safe. When we close the building be sure to turn off lights, flush toilets, check all doors to be sure they're all shut and locked. Kitchen: Steve runs dishwasher on Sundays. Be sure to turn everything off and put away everything in the kitchen so it's ready to use the next day. Close door to Oneg hall to save A.C.

VP Report vacant

Rabbi's Report Rabbi Geoff Dennis

1. Rosemary Caramago converted
2. Kate Hunter's Bat mitzvah took place.
3. Rabbi is meeting with Southlake pastors who have reached out to him since Rabbi Charlie's absence.
4. Extended with Keshet organization that supports LGBTQ
5. Networked with UNT Hillel Director
6. Working with potential new members.
7. Kevin Holmes led music for congregation and did well.
8. Adam Ruditsky at Adat Chavarim and Rabbi will cover for each other in their absence.

Treasurer's Report Rebecca Lennard

1. Treasurer Report provided via email. Running in the red earlier than we typically do, which is not a great sign. Got a little cash which alleviated the cash flow problem for now.
2. Added a couple of families with kids starting religious school.
3. On a positive note, we are seeing payments and abatement requests come in from the paper mailing done earlier in the month.
4. We did double Holiday ticket prices, and Bob has been reminding folks that moved to a single membership that they need to purchase guest tickets.

Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

Membership Support

Greg Eftimie (Absent)

It was noted that there have been a couple of Care Calendar items for a surgery and new baby.

Education

Casey Flancbaum

1. First day went well. Slightly less students from last year. Have some new families joining.
2. Has a Hebrew Teacher for the first half of the year. (Dana Roseberry)
3. New Teachers. 1st grade Lauren Davidson. 3rd grade Adam Johnson (new parent). No 6th or 8th grade classes – no parents responded to Casey's messages.

Youth Programming

Casey Flancbaum

1. NoTTY meets this weekend.
2. Probably won't do as big of a kugel fundraising event. She could use some help if anyone wants to volunteer.

Ritual

Helena Shapp-Dossey/Debra Kaufman

1. Co-chairs working on Holiday services. Completed confirmation of honorees for Rosh Hashanah.
2. Got last quarter of this year lined up for Cantorial Soloist.
3. Casey is trying not to spend money on High Holy Day (HHD) Choir. Only real expense is piano player. Choir members will sit with family again like last year.
4. Bob will provide ushers with a list of those with Holiday tickets (members and non-members) in alphabetical order. People are supposed to show up with their list of attendees to show ushers who validate who has tickets. Will ask for donations if someone shows up without a ticket. Bob has cards with a link to donate.

5. Steve would like Board Members to be at CKA early to greet and welcome people as they come in.
6. Babysitting – ok with one adult and a volunteer high school kids. Casey is checking with volunteers and will let Linda know who volunteers.

Building

Don Dossey

1. Cut down dead trees in the playground. Harold helped haul them to the dumpster.
2. Put out some Amdro for fire ants before school started.
3. Repaired two doors that weren't closing.
4. Working on tightening a couple of white boards in classrooms.
5. Wants to have a "workday" before Holidays but right now it's too hot outside.
6. Playground equipment will be pressure washed and any wasp nests removed before Sunday.

Cemetery

Kenny Webman

1. \$18,500 in cemetery account. Not aware of any new sales.
2. Has an appointment with Kasy Wozniak next week to talk about any issues. Then will meet with his committee.
3. Kenny asked: Are there elements of the budget that could be presented in a way that shows expenses that are not subject to abatement? Would it help cut back on the money problem. Bob says: Cannot abate religious school or bar mitzvah fees. Maybe we should re-look at our abatement rules. Executive Board can talk about this more.

Communications Bob Lennard

1. High Holy Day Info is Out – letters and email messages. Set up tickets so we have names for checking folks in faster. Prices were all doubled for tickets. We're still the lowest price in the metroplex. Nobody has complained so far. We may actually come out ahead.
2. Results of Givebutter Campaign – allows recurring payments. It allows members to cover the Card fees. About 70% of people are choosing to cover the fees. Working out well for us. Bob would like to get everyone to convert. Even a few non-members are setting up recurring payments.
3. CKA Music Survey Results – Bob shared the results which were submitted earlier via email. Helena asked that a summary be published and provided to soloists.
4. CKA Needs To Be Supported – how do we show value to folks who's kids are aging out and retain those families that have been leaving?

Fundraising

Vacant

1. Helena has a volunteer who wants to help have an Israeli music concert night. What time of year would we like to have that? Jan or Feb might be good. Would the BOD like her to explore? The Board agreed.
2. Possible fundraiser – Quiz Night idea with Jeff Cagle planning.

Membership Recruitment

Rachel Cohen-Miller

Thinking about doing a survey to find out what folks are looking for from CKA. What's missing that we could cover? Bob can help do a survey. Bob will look at what's listed on the member application to see if the interest items are still accurate.

Tikkun Olam

No Report

Brandi Hunter (Absent)

New Business

Don has a new assistant for security on Friday nights. Ex law enforcement background who can help with security. Graham Hunter.

Next Meeting

Board meets virtually on Oct 26 @7pm Link is on the CKA calendar.

Review Action Items and Adjourn

Don Dossey moved to adjourn, Casey Flancbaum seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.