

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday January 4, 2023**

**Attendance:** Stephen Ducar, Rabbi Dennis, Linda Tavano, Bob Lennard, Kenny Webman, Helena Shapp-Dossey, Don Dossey, Brandi Hunter, Debra Kaufman, Casey Flancbaum, Becky Lennard

**Call to Order**

Stephen Ducar

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

**Opening Prayer**

Rabbi Dennis

**Guest Speakers**

Fees Assessed for Meeting at CKA

Melissa Hart, Mollie Marks, Nicki Cohen

Questioned why some groups are charged fees for extra-curricular activities using the building and others are not. They asked that the Board apply fees in a fair and consistent way across the board. Bob Lennard explained that for groups which are not open to new members there is a fee assessed to meet at CKA. Bob explained reasoning: Since Musar Group is closed (not open/offered to all congregants - nobody else can join) it's not a typical group meeting in that way. Also, Musar is not on the CKA Calendar. This is the reason why the Musar group is being charged a fee for using the building. The guests asked if all groups use the utilities, why aren't fees across the board? The Board will revisit this tonight in New Business.

Financial aspects of FEMA Grant

Harold Harris and Gary Jacobs, Melissa Hart

Applying for a FEMA Grant from TX – putting in parking lot lights, ballistic window treatment, and other security assessment items from last year. If we do get a grant for \$150K – can only apply for what was written up during the assessment by the Federation in Dallas. Grant requires CKA to pay vendor first and then get reimbursed by Federal Government. Some members have volunteered to put up the money in advance at no interest so there is not a cash flow issue. Can the committee go to members to borrow the money from Congregants to be paid back without interest? Becky believes only items the Board agrees on being done should be included. There are 3 things: lights in parking lot, ballistic covering on glass, and a fence around the property (such as wrought iron). The committee doesn't think we can do all three this year within funding provided by the grant anyway. So the fence can be put off. Fence will probably only go between CKA and apartments. The Federation also provides small grants.

Adult Hebrew class

Mollie Marks

Mollie would like to start Adult Hebrew Class in February. She asked if it could be offered via Zoom. Bob said he thinks it would be ok, he will check the calendar. CKA only charges nonmembers for education. We charge \$125 for Intro to Judaism (non-members) so probably the same for this course.

**Review and approval of the Minutes**

Linda Tavano

Based on corrections already made Bob moved to approve and the motion carried.

**President's Report**

Stephen Ducar

1. Email requests for gift cards – these are SPAM and not real. Steve will never ask us for money via email or text. Kenny has a law enforcement contact he has forwarded the emails to. Note that now false emails have also come from Rabbi.
2. Spoke to Jeff Cagle about Quiz night. Jeff is working on it. Toby is working a music fund raiser.
3. Thank you to the latke crew who helped make latkes for Religious School event!

**Rabbi's Report**

Rabbi Dennis

1. Services attendance is back up - especially Saturday morning services.
2. Had two B'nai Mitzvot – Jack Silverman and the Holmes'.
3. New Intro to Judaism started in October.
4. Young Adult Chavarah has had several events, unfortunately the leader is moving. They have had Daf Yomi (now halacha), Game nights and Friday night meetings.
5. Chanukah Menorathon was actually right after the end of Chanukah and turned out great. Good attendance.
6. Conversion of Michelle (Misha) Kane
7. Rabbi provided community service during Christmas serving as police chaplain.
8. American Scripture Project Pilot is underway, has met twice and meets again this month.
9. Rabbi will be in Cincinnati 7-10 Feb for an Alumni event.
10. On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> he is holding an event to brief on current events and address concerns.

**VP Report**

vacant

**Treasurer's Report**

Rebecca Lennard -

1. No report. Books aren't closed yet.
2. Rabbi's Parsonage claim for 2023 is \$41,000.

**Committee Reports****Committee Chairs****Membership Support**

Greg Eftimie - Absent

**Education**

Casey Flancbaum

1. Not a huge student body but have gotten a few extra students.
2. Hebrew Teacher left. Casey is giving materials to teachers to keep it working.
3. Casey is working on a Yom Ha Mishpachah to encourage parents to visit the classrooms and engage.

**Youth Programming**

Casey Flancbaum

1. Postponing this month's events.
2. Working with two 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to reignite 7<sup>th</sup> graders post Bnai mitzvah and keep them in the religious school program.
3. There is a NIFTY event Feb 10-11 at Greene camp.
4. Morgan Ducar is coming to the congregation to promote Greene on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
5. Working to meet with Youth group directors in North TX area with Morgan and Casey. Kids can interact with peers in the area. It's on Feb 4.

**Ritual**

Helena Shapp-Dossey/Debra Kaufman

1. Debra and Helena pointed out that outside vendors and others are using up items/supplies in the kitchen. They want to tighten up access and notify others that we don't supply consumables (other

than at Shabbat Onegs). Or suggestion to charge a little extra for using those things so it doesn't become an additional item that has to be enforced. Suggested that we add cost of consumables to B'nai Mitzvah fees starting our next fiscal year.

2. Who will oversee the kitchen now that it's not Sandy Silverleib and Debra is moving? Debra will make Sisterhood aware that they will need to take over this duty. Brandi offered to help out as a backup.

#### **Building**

Don Dossey

1. Have a plumber scheduled to come find the leak that has increased our water usage/cost.
2. Need to have company come out to fix door lock so it doesn't unlock when power goes out.

#### **Cemetery**

Kenny Webman

1. Kenny's time as HOA president is coming to an end. He will have more time to deal with open issues such as: a sign by the bowl with stones letting visitors know that the stones are periodically returned to the bowl when maintenance is done. Also, something will go out with newsletter.
2. Kenny will talk to Kacy about any of her issues with groundskeeping, etc.
3. There is an unauthorized bench sitting in the middle of the cemetery – it's the shape of a Chai. From a vendor. Cemetery Committee and then Board will have to decide whether to remove it. He prefers standard benches already being used and not placed at a headstone.
4. Looks like a couple more spaces will be purchased soon. Kenny will meet with perspective purchasers to tour the sites available.

#### **Communications** Bob Lennard

1. Need Board to see what the Security Committee is submitting before they submit for Grant.
2. Board would like to see the Federation's report in advance. Bob will provide to the Board.
3. Bob will be working on the end of year tax items.

#### **Fundraising**

Vacant

#### **Membership Recruitment**

Rachel Cohen-Miller - Absent

#### **Tikkun Olam**

Brandi Hunter

1. Collected socks and underwear and brought to Friend's of the Family. They were very thankful.
2. Plan to do a hygiene item drive to provide to Friend's of the Family.
3. Brandi wants to look into physically helping out in the area. Staggering events in terms of giving and doing. Rabbi thinks FM Police department can give suggested homes that need help with yard work for example. Casey suggested Adopt a Spot.
4. Helena suggested a mitzvah day at CKA on a Sunday.

#### **New Business**

1. Steve stated that he is available whenever we need him. Feel free to contact him with concerns. He appreciates a heads up before guests bring up a discussion item.
2. The Board discussed fees for groups using CKA building. Currently those that aren't open to other members joining are charged \$50/month (For Musar meeting weekly, this is \$10-\$15 a week depending on the month.) Currently this is the only outside group that isn't open to other members. Debra suggested that we charge all groups a set amount each month. Don feels this

penalizes groups and we want to promote/encourage members to come to the building. We could drop the fees all together. Or we could ask for voluntary donations. Bob motioned to keep the fees as is. The Board voted to keep the fees as is. If other groups want to make a voluntary donation of \$10/hour for the building use, that is an option.

3. Since service attendance is increasing, is \$40 donation for the Oneg still ok? Can't change fees this year but for future fiscal years we should re-visit. Kenny suggests putting fees on the Agenda at the Annual Meeting to let members know what the fees are and publish them. Bob will bring the fee list to the next meeting for the Board to discuss.

**Next Meeting**      Board meets virtually on February 22 @7pm. Link is on the CKA calendar.

**Review Action Items and Adjourn**

Kenny Webman motioned to adjourn, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.