

CONGREGATION KOL AMI
BOARD MEETING
Thursday November 21, 2024

Attendance: Stephen Ducar, Linda Tavano, Kenny Webman, Helena Shapp-Dossey, Don Dossey, Steve Dubner, Melissa Hart, Karen Rhodes, Rabbi Dennis, Casey Flancbaum, Melissa Hart, Brandi Hunter, Karen Rhodes

Call to Order Stephen Ducar
Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Opening Prayer Rabbi Dennis

Review and approval of the Minutes Linda Tavano
Meeting minutes from September Board meeting were approved.

President's Report Stephen Ducar

1. Appreciated seeing everyone at High Holy Days and all the volunteers. Checking people in went well.
2. Worldwide clothing collection box is doing well – it is turning over quickly for pick up.
3. Our building insurance has already lapsed, and company is not going to cover us. We are saving for self-insurance but also looking for other insurance companies: May have to go with someone more expensive. Kenny asked about who the church next door is using. Steve needs to find out. Karen said there is grant money available through the government and larger congregations for buildings, structural repairs, etc. Melissa can work on grants if she is made aware of what's available.
4. We are still waiting for a security grant response.
5. Need to start raising funds to take care of building. Howie will be sending something out. Steve is also going to put something out in the blast.

VP Report Stephen Dubner
Covered under New Business

Rabbi's Report Rabbi Dennis

1. Rabbi thanked everyone who helped put High Holy Days together, especially Helena and Casey. All went well and the choir sounded great. The service to honor those lost in the tragedy on October 7 went well.
2. Rabbi was recovering from surgery during Sukkot.
3. Simchat Torah went well thanks to Helena's organization.
4. Intro to Judaism class started.
5. One Congregation Book Club started.
6. There was one Bat Mitzvah and Rabbi converted three people who are now new congregants. Married two congregants and had a ketubah signing for congregants.

Treasurer's Report

Edward Barnett - Absent

Daily Balances:

PayPal: \$1,640.30

Givebuttr: \$1,253.33

Fundraising Account: \$26,351.04 (\$21,351.04 Available)

Reserved for Insurance: \$5,000

FloMo/Other Large Donations: \$11,521.04

Rabbi's 25th Fundraiser: \$9,830.00

Youth Group: \$941.33

Cemetery Account: \$57,029.19

General Checking: \$58,184.43

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: \$3,496.21

Playground Savings: \$9,022.11

Committee Reports**Committee Chairs****Building**

Don Dossey

1. Sanctuary light bulbs will be changed.
2. Onegie Hall walls need work again.
3. Fixing sweep on front door to stop leaves blowing in.
4. Filters were just changed two months ago.
5. Need an exterminator, Rabbi will take it up with Bob.

Membership Support

Greg Eftimie Absent

Met with Holly at services to hand out the welcome gift.

Communications

Melissa Hart

Nothing to report.

Education

Casey Flancbaum

1. Religious school is going well. Enrollment is on the low side.
2. Communicated with a local woman who is working with Jewish federation of Dallas on a social group. It's a way to meet other Jewish folks in the community. She wants to know what weekend she can come out for a Chanukah book exchange. Before the Menorathon on Dec 27 will work. PJ Library will donate books and Casey also has some. Money will be provided for some food at the event. Casey invited her to join us at the Menorathon and let her know she's welcome at CKA. Board approved and liked the idea of incorporating younger kids too at Menorathon.
3. There will be a Chanukah shopping day for school kids, and they will be making cards to for Israel on Dec 8. Dec 15 is the latkes, etc.

Youth Programming

Casey Flancbaum

Working on an event for before winter break. Kids need to develop ideas.

Middle school is also jumping into Chanukah season at Ninja Kids on December 15.

Ritual

Helena Shapp-Dossey

1. Sukkot celebration was managed, and sukkah was decorated. Sisterhood did a great job with the food. About 24 people attended.
2. Celebration for Lauren and Conner went well.
3. High Holy Days went very well.

Cemetery

Kenny Webman

1. The cemetery committee approved a different style monument for Bruce Goldberg and wife. The short headstones (2' tall x 2' wide) meet Roselawn requirements.
2. One or two trees in cemetery died. Committee will approve the new trees out of cemetery budget. (Probably 30-gallon size oak trees.)
3. A set of two plots is being donated back to us by a couple who are moving away.

Fundraising

Vacant

Membership Recruitment

Karen Rhodes

People have been responding well to the new member gifts at services. Have two families coming on the 22nd.

Tikkun Olam

Brandi Hunter -

1. The committee wants to do more service-oriented projects. First event on December 8, making Chanukah cards in the foyer during Religious School to go to Israel for IDF.
2. Will be doing annual sock and underwear drive.
3. The Baptist church donates snacks for families in need at Timber Creek Elementary. We can partner with the church. Students can participate by bringing in snacks for "kids helping kids".
4. Other possible ideas: Operation Kindness family day; Computer help day for seniors; Fire House/Police visits; and Mitzvah Day at CKA.

Review Old Business/ New Business and Action Items/ Follow-Up:

1. Rabbi's contract extension resolution. Waiting for Rabbi's decision, he will get with Steve Dubner in December.
2. Health Insurance – Rabbi signed up for Medicare which starts December 1. Robin is going on the Affordable Care Act. Cost to CKA is reducing after Dec 1. Kenny asked if we are trying to make Rabbi and Robin's cost \$0? This could affect their taxes due to IRMAA brackets. Steve needs to look at the contract to see if it requires us to cover all the insurance cost.
3. Rabbi's 25th Anniversary dinner update: Cost is \$75 per person and goal is to sell 75 tickets. It includes a fundraiser that Howie Watt is working (\$25k for 25 Years). Funds go toward general maintenance and help buying new AC units. (Estimated cost of ~\$90k for roof top units.) To date have raised \$9,830. Casey offered providing babysitting using students for the event at CKA under her supervision. If a fee is charged that could add to fundraising too. Brandi will take that to her committee. The committee is looking for gift baskets and other items to auction off at the dinner
4. Steve would like all Board members to attend the dinner if possible. Please buy your tickets if you haven't already!

5. It was suggested that some type of “thermometer” in the lobby be used for tracking donations toward goals. Brandi has a graphic for the Blast. Steve Ducar will reach out to the Erwins to see if Paige or Danny might make something for the lobby. Still need another fundraiser to cover all the building costs (AC units, Sanctuary door repair, and sanctuary chairs, etc.)
6. Will also be a Tea for Robin.
7. Next meeting we will begin discussing possible member fee changes for 2025 – 2026 to be ready for June 2025 Member Meeting. Changes need to be decided by May 1 to make the Member Meeting packet. Suggested we clearly state all the benefits we receive for our membership dues. Current fees can be viewed on Dropbox. See 24/25 rate sheet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting Board meets virtually on January 23 @7pm. Link is on the CKA calendar.