

CONGREGATION KOL AMI
BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 20th, 2025

Attendance: Stephen Dubner, Don Dossey, Becky Lennard, Starr Leva, Adam Johnson, Kenny Webman, Elizabeth Kennedy, Melissa Hart, Rabbi Dennis, and Howie Watt.

Also in attendance: Gary Jacobs and Harold Harris (presentation on security grant)

Lindsey Lev (high holiday choir)

Jeff Cagle-interested party

Call to Order Stephen Dubner

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Opening Prayer Rabbi Geoff Dennis

Review and approval of the Minutes N/A

President's Report Stephen Dubner

President Stephen Dubner related that he searched through old board minutes to see if he could find any information about promissory notes being signed to help with financing the security grant to place bullet proof glass in the windows, strengthen the doors and improve the lighting of the parking lots. He was unable to find mention of it.

In order to update the new board members, a slide presentation with diagrams was presented by Gary Jacobs and Harold Harris. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the new board members of an award from Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), provide a formal vote on promissory notes to help with the cash flow of payments to vendors and to sign the promissory notes so the project could proceed.

It was noted that the grant application was written, by Melissa Hart and Kevin and Geneva Holmes which saved the congregation about 25,000\$. The congregation was awarded 150,000\$. Official purpose of the award is to lower the chance of terrorism.

Initial steps to get started:

- 1) A commercial crime and fidelity coverage insurance rider, which Bob Lennard has requested a quote from Texas Security General Insurance. Coverage needs to be in place to start.
- 2) Promissory Notes need to be signed (pending board approval).
- 3) A separate checking acct. established for the grant, with 2 signature checks used, signed by Steve Dubner and a member of the grant committee, either Gary Jacobs, Harold Harris or possibly Becky Lennard. (grant records are subject to audit for 3 years).
- 4) Signed Vendor quotes:
 - Town and Country quote for the glass, signed (good to go)
 - Safe Have quote for laminate-needs final agreed to advance payment schedule
 - A1 Light quote for parking lot illumination-needs final agreed to advance payment schedule,

Risk Mitigation on Potential non-reimbursement:

- 1) Compliant reporting and submittals for reimbursement
- 2) Monthly submittals for reimbursement
- 3) Requests for reimbursement of advance payments prior to paying vendors (except for completion payments)
- 4) Attempt to complete project within 6-8 months

We have access to people at the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas who have experience in the reimbursement process.

Promissory Notes from three donors 5,000\$, \$5000, \$15000=25000\$

Terms

-0% interest rate

-committee member cosigns checks to ensure proper compliance and use of funds

-conditions of nonrepayment:

A. CKA uses the money for something besides the grant

B. CKA doesn't need the loaned money and doesn't use it

C. state reimburses all the loaned money CKA under the grant

D. state does not reimburse the money

Forecasted flow of Grant funds:

1) Cosigners of the check CKA representative (Dubner and cosigner), CKA bookkeeper is notified after verification of completion and a check is issued to the contractor after the contractor submits a numbered invoice to the Grant committee rep.

2) The grant committee rep. then requests reimbursement FSR (monthly) from the office of the Governor, the grant money is then deposited into Frost Bank (where the promissory note money is) so final payment can be issued after deposit notification.

Specifics on payments to vendors as projects are completed can be found in the presentation notes from Gary Jacobs

Concerns by board members.

The following questions were posed:

1) Who reviewed the contractors: Companies were vetted and several bids were obtained. Gary and Harold both got several quotes and came up with what they felt was the best choices considering cost, reputation and staged payments.

2) When does the crime rider expire? It is set to coincide with the beginning and ending of the project.

3) Any chance the grant will dissolve since we are in the 18th month of the project? It is believed that it will not be taken away since it was issued and we are moving forward.

4) Any follow up on the completed projects? Before and after pictures will be taken. Promissory notes are to help cash flow so that the ending acct. balance is always positive. We give the go ahead to avoid supply chain problems and cash flow issues.

5) General question asked and answered about number of light towers (5 or 6). Along with wiring and a new breaker box.

The presentation ended at 7:50.

Rabbi congratulated Gary, Harold and Melissa and the Holmes' for the excellent presentation and work put into the grant and finding adequate vendors.

A formal vote was taken on the promissory notes and passed 6-0. Rabbi, Steve and Howie abstained from the vote. Motion carried. At 7:50 PM the promissory notes were signed and Lindsey Lev was witness.

At 8:06

Steve spoke about Casey leaving and Lindsey volunteering

Lindsey Lev spoke about the high holiday choir" You picked me because I sing" She related that the hired piano player was extremely critical of congregation and its members and was subsequently let go. She said she could sing and play piano but not on all the music. She suggested that we could use recorded music for the choir parts or we could hire another piano player. Realizing that cost is a concern, she posed the question of how much is music a priority? Elizabeth Kennedy stated that we need Lynsey to sing. It was suggested that we need about 1600\$ to cover the pianist and a choir conductor for rehearsals and performances. Rabbi donated money from his discretionary fund. Fund raising ideas for next year will be discussed.

Steve made a motion to allow volunteers to not have to purchase tickets to High Holiday services, including nonmembers but guests will still be required to purchase tickets. The motion passed 8-0.

Howie suggested we approve the minutes from the prior meeting and Melissa seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

VP Report

Brandi Hunter

none

Bob Lennard

none

Rabbi's Report

Rabbi Dennis

The Rabbi spoke about an opportunity for TIKKUN OLAM. Through HIAS(Hebrew Immigrant Assistance Society) whose purpose is to welcome legal immigrants and help them get settled in the area. A welcome team half from Kol AMI and half from Temple Shalom will be formed from willing volunteers. The purpose will be to help these newly arrived immigrants with assistance in housing, employment, schools, documents, language issues clothing, furniture, and any other reasonable needs they might have. Looking for about 6-8 days over a 6 month period.

Steve expressed a couple of concerns:

- 1) We are having a hard enough time with volunteers at the present. Only a few people are doing most of the volunteering. Extra financial needs and a 6 month commitment is a lot.
- 2) The family is from Afghanistan, and likely muslim. Will there be Jewish/ Muslim negative interactions.
- 3) Finally, how will some other members of the congregation feel about this?

A request from Juli Greenburg, that we look at Commuity Public School meeting discussing

Treasurer's Report

Becky Lennard

1. Membership is down to 127/128 families.
2. We are over-budget.
3. Two families (with kids) left the congregation for a Chabad.
4. Suggestions on how to reach out and increase membership - Intro to Judaism Class by the Rabbi

Daily Balances as of 8/21/2025:

Pay Pal: \$

Givebuttr: \$

Fundraising Account Total: \$

Mitzvah Magic: \$

Prior Funds: \$

Youth Group: \$

Cemetery Account: \$

General Checking: \$

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: \$

Playground Savings: \$

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

Don Dossey & Bill Wilson

Nothing to report.

Membership Support

Vacant

Nothing to report.

Communications

Melissa Hart

Notices should be submitted with visual aids (pictures, drawings, charts) to increase interest.

Education

Adam Johnson

Religious School Open House was August 7, 2025. Continuing to work on a new curriculum.

Youth Programming

Nothing to report

Ritual

Amy Johnson

Discussion on continuing to develop rituals and education. A Havdalah service was considered.

Cemetery

Kenny Webman

1. Report on the cemetery at Roselawn Memorial Garden in Denton.
2. Cost of plots: \$4,000/members and \$5,500/non-members.
3. Presently, there are 126 plots available and more can be purchased at a later date, 25 at a time.

Fundraising

Howie Watt

Currently open to suggestions.

Membership Recruitment

Vacant

Tikkun Olam

Vacant

**Review Old Business/ New Business and Action Items/ Follow-Up:
Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM**