

Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2004

Attendees: Gary Winters, Rabbi Freundel, Michael Gelfand, Jonathan Frenkel, Leon Wieseltier, David Barak, Debbie Rogal, Baruch Fellner, David Sloan, Heather Zomer, Natasha Rosenstock, Elanit Rothschild, David Epstein, Jonathan Pincus

Roz Singer, Leon, David Barak, Gary Winters, Rabbi Freundel, Michael Gelfand, Debbie Rogal, Natasha Rosenstock, David Sloan, Evonne Marzouk, Heather Zomer, Elanit Rothschild, Jerome Chapman, Jonathan Frenkel, Baruch Fellner, Barry Schochet.

1. New Members

The board approved the new membership of the following applicants:

Dan Markel

Jerry Rosenbaum

Michael Shurkin and Stephanie Guiloff

Keith Krivitsky

Bracha Reznik

Suri Hoenig

Jesse Mendelsohn will be the new point of contact for new members, and for connecting the Rabbi and other board members to people who are new to the community.

2. Financial Report

It was reported that we have currently raised \$75,000 from Kol Nidre. The billing has not been conducted. The overall budget is in line with expectations.

3. Nursery School

David Barak reported that they have developed a budget for the nursery school that will be profitable if the shul does not charge rent. They propose the introduction of two large first floor classrooms, possibly one large classroom upstairs, refurbishing the kitchen, and additional office space in the basement of new building. There will be capacity for 24 or slightly more children ages 2-4. The highest costs are for staff. The maintenance costs will be affordable with below-market rent.

The board asked several questions in response to this report. It appears that the building could be used for some shul purposes during the weekend. The pick-up/drop-off challenges have been examined with respect to other Georgetown institutions. Examination of safety and zoning issues have been conducted by the committee and deemed feasible. Zoning issues have been identified, but cannot be solved at a preliminary stage. Food questions have been budgeted, according to the likelihood of providing snacks not meals.

David Barak stated that there is no single showstopper for feasibility.

The board congratulated David and the committee for their work.

In terms of financial feasibility, Michael Gelfand stated that the community and the greater community can afford the initial expense of the building and that obstacles need to be identified quickly. Since we are closing within 60 days, the analysis must be completed by that time. He requested that the report be distributed before the next board meeting.

Heather Zomer asked when a shul meeting would be appropriate to discuss the school. Leon Weiseltier raised the concern of potential community opposition. There will be a “save the date” letter to the congregation sent the last week of November, setting up a congregational meeting on this topic.

4. Needs-Analysis Survey Results

The needs-analysis survey has received 50 responses, half-electronic, half-paper. Most of the survey recipients gave their names. Response rates were poor by expectations but in line with general surveys.

A targeted survey to parents specific to nursery needs was suggested.

Clear priorities were identified for additional space and programs: bathrooms, coatrooms and social hall, additional rabbinic classes.

The board will discuss the final report on 11/14.

5. Status of Mikvah Development

Our current Mikvah contractor will be fired at the end of the month for not having completed the work in a timely manner. It is estimated that there is less than one week of work left to complete. There have been many delays due to our halachic requests and Chabad requests, but most delays have been due to contractor absence.