

Minutes of Peretz Executive Meeting

January 21, 2010

In attendance: Gene Homel, Louise Miller, Richard Rosenberg, Donna Becker, Sylvia Friedman, Anton Friedman, Bernice Kastner, Victor Neuman, Dena Dawson, Mark Neuman, and guests Ben Neuman, Lorraine Isaacson

Approval of the minutes: Motion to approve: MSC Bernice, Victor

Report from Seniors Coordinator (Lorraine Isaacson)

- ◆ Attendance at Sholem Aleichem Seniors Friday meetings has dwindled. People are getting too old. Once they go into Louis Brier or similar housing they have a lot of on-site activities and don't go out much. Younger people don't self-define as seniors and aren't interested in a seniors program. Other groups having the same problem.
- ◆ Ways to attract people: hot lunch? Better transportation? Posting of program at Jewish Family Services.
- ◆ Lorraine is involved with organizing a seniors crisis line for people 55+, along the same lines as the regular crisis line
- ◆ The group will continue to meet during the Olympics.

CSJO West Coast Regional Conference Report

Leslie Dyson prepared a draft report of the conference planning. Ben Neuman presented a preliminary budget. They would like from Peretz: the building at cost, help with getting grant funding, use of administration services, including accounting.

Motion to approve the Peretz' support for the conference: MSC Bernice, Victor.

Business Arising

- ◆ **Baby boomer sing-alongs:** Donna has been talking with Bernard Pinsky, one of the musicians when the JCC held this event. The musicians don't charge and are enthusiastic. Talks to continue.
- ◆ **Surcharge for non-members:** Donna spoke with Tom, because she felt that when Tom approved of this he didn't understand, as it seemed to be just a roundabout way of giving benefits for membership, which we can't do because we give tax receipts for membership. Tom clarified that indeed we can't charge a surcharge for non-members. Discussion: we need to do a comparison between the tax benefits vs member savings if we were to dispense with tax receipts for membership.
- ◆ **Update on security funding:** SIP application was disqualified with the comment that we are "not a community at risk." Also, they wanted a more detailed budget and an explanation of how security funding would make participants feel safer. We were invited to amend our application. Donna obtained a paragraph from Shelley Rivkin (who mentioned that the government had sent this disqualification to many Jewish organizations) showing that it is well recognized that Jewish organizations are at risk. Donna re-submitted the application with the details requested.

President's Report

- ◆ **Community Calendar meeting:** This is to prevent organizations from scheduling competing major fundraisers. Richard can't attend, but as we don't qualify for the term "major fundraiser", as our admission to the banquet is <\$75, it isn't urgent we attend.

- ◆ Richard did an interview on the role of the Peretz Centre for the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia.

Treasurer's Report

- ◆ **Yiddish grant:** Al Stein and Helen Mintz got a grant to interview Yiddish speaking seniors. The money will be administered by our accountant.
- ◆ **Current status:** Down from last year. Larger deficit predicted. Missed out on the Arts and Culture gaming grant but applied for Human Services instead. Rentals down and will continue to be down because of Olympics.

New Business

- ◆ **Banquet post mortem:** need clarification on budget and revenue, so tabled.
- ◆ **Olympics:** We will be open, business as usual, during this period.
- ◆ **False alarms reduction program**
 - ◇ Two already since last time we paid to be reinstated. One more and we get fined.
 - ◇ Idea to lock out elevator from basement to prevent false alarms until building is disarmed. Would have to notify members.
- ◆ **Irene Dawson**
 - ◇ Several volunteers won't work anymore if she is allowed in the kitchen
 - ◇ Needs to be told this. Gene volunteered to do this, or Donna will do.
- ◆ **Jewish Historical Society:** membership renewal due, \$75. Consensus is we should renew.
- ◆ **Two special events**
 - ◇ Two films on the disappeared of Argentina. Patricia Waisman bringing DVDs from Argentina. They will be shown on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. Reservations must be made. Donna suggested \$2 admission but it was decided to charge \$5 and provide coffee and cookies.
 - ◇ Stephen Kaplan volunteered to do a magic show in honour of Ruthie's 5th yortsayt. He would perform for free but take 25% to pay his assistants. Date will be March 7th. Rates TBD. Possibility of selling alcohol.
- ◆ **Report of meeting with police (Victor)**
 - ◇ All congregations sent reps.
 - ◇ Police staffing at Olympic venues will not detract from their policing of the rest of Vancouver
 - ◇ Jewish community is a high priority. Response time for crimes against the Jewish community is ~2 minutes
 - ◇ Ask we report all suspicious activity
 - ◇ Would like us to forward our building plan to the police so that they know what they're doing if they're ever contacted in an emergency.
 - ◇ Various suggestions for making the building more secure were discussed.
- ◆ **Seder tickets:** Past cost: \$30/\$15. Should we raise?
Motion: we raise admission to \$36 and \$18 (for b'nai mitsvah grads and children). MSC: Bernice, Victor.
- ◆ **CSJO membership:** has gone up to \$50/member.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: Thursday, February 25, 2010.