

Minutes of Peretz Executive Meeting

October 19, 2009

In attendance: Gene Homel, Louise Miller, Richard Rosenberg, Victor Neuman, Bernice Kastner, Donna Becker, Mark Neuman, Sylvia Friedman, Claire Osipov

Approval of the minutes: No corrections. Motion to approve: MSC Bernice, Victor

Business Arising

- ◆ **Susana Herner/Rena Sharon concert (Nov. 28):** calling for patrons, who will attend the reception sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. This will require a \$50 contribution to the Peretz Centre. The contribution is not eligible for a tax receipt. Posters given to Board members to put up. Board members should spread the word.
- ◆ **CSJO Western Regional Conference:** Leslie will be planning to speak re successful venture, but not yet ready to supply a budget.
- ◆ **Outcome of donation to Book Festival:** This is the only annual donation. Victor was unhappy with the tone of the emails from the Festival organizer but the consensus was to let it lie. Intent to discuss donations policy in years when we have a deficit later in the meeting.

President's Report

- ◆ **Meeting of Council of Presidents:** cutbacks possible. No word yet from Federation, who are in the middle of their annual campaign.

Treasurer's Report

- ◆ No report at this meeting. Annual report will be presented at AGM, November 8.

New Business

◆ **Retreat results:**

These are the priorities identified in the retreat, in some cases with comments:

- ◇ Younger board members. We now have two, Mark and Anton. Our two b'nai mitsvah classes have 7 each—is this a sign of more youth involvement? Top priority at our retreat.
- ◇ Vegvayzer: not enough funds.
- ◇ Education program for non-Jewish partners: Louise held two sessions on holidays. One was well attended, the other not so. Willing to do again.
- ◇ Life cycle events
- ◇ Increase publicity
- ◇ Revert Berson Youth Lounge into a Youth Lounge—they would like it for themselves but it is needed for rentals
- ◇ Adult B'nai Mitsvah
- ◇ Website
- ◇ Teachers with professional training for programs.

◆ **School report:**

- ◇ Mark informed us that Heather MacLean has to resign as Sunday School teacher. We have hired Samantha Scott but it turns out she will be away for a month starting mid-November and then again in February for an indeterminate time. We will advertise and otherwise search for a

new teacher, with Sam remaining a substitute. Meanwhile, Tammy will fill in, which will also provide Mark with the support he needs.

- ◇ B'nai Mitzvah: Gene has volunteered to pinch hit with B'nai Mitzvah program and has expressed interest in apprenticing next year.
- ◇ Victor would like to see a professional teacher in the Sunday School to support Mark and Samantha. Mark feels the school loses credibility when there is no certified teacher.
- ◇ Seven students in Sunday School this year. B'nai Mitzvah '11 has 7 "eager" students. Class of '10: 7.

◆ **Monthly parking**

- ◇ Estimate to move card reader from elevator to outside garage access about \$1500. Insurance, signage, etc. would bring our outlay to \$2500.
- ◇ We'd need at least 10 parkers as start up.
- ◇ Mark volunteered to leaflet cars in the neighbourhood.
- ◇ Discussion: we'd need to ascertain the level of interest before we proceed.

◆ **Book Festival**

- ◇ Issue of whether to donate this year because of our deficit.
- ◇ Voting (via internet) was tied. Tiebreaker (Anton) suggested compromise: we donate but reduced amount. We went down from the \$250 we usually donate to \$200, with \$50 of that being donated personally by Richard.
- ◇ Bernice wonders why this wasn't included in the budget.
- ◇ Other donations: there aren't any. Jewish Film Festival asked us erroneously. The original agreement was that we would be listed as a sponsor in return for all the support they get for being in the building, e.g. using meeting rooms.
- ◇ Claire suggests we set aside approximately \$300 for items such as this. We need to remain visible in the community and our names should be on the publicity of places we donate to.
- ◇ Victor explained our situation: we are losing grant money this year, both from Casino and Federation. Our deficit next year is likely going to be larger.
- ◇ Pointed out that this \$200 isn't going to be the back breaker.

◆ **Annual audit**

- ◇ Looking for ways to reduce costs, Tom and Victor decided not to hire Marsh and Marsh to do an overview of our finances every year but rather every other year.
- ◇ Marsh and Marsh don't do an audit, just a report. Tom will do a report instead.
- ◇ Donna concerned our grantors will not like this. But we are going to try. If grantors object, we will point out we don't have the \$1500 for the report.

◆ **Artwork for the building**

- ◇ Olga Gvozdic (comes to the Peretz with MOST Russian Seniors) donated a small painting of Moses and followers leaving the Red Sea. It will be hung on the blue wall in the lobby.
- ◇ Miriam Zachs offered to donate two abstract paintings but consensus was they are too big for our wallspace.
- ◇ Elizabeth Shefrin is moving and having an art sale. She will offer a special dollar for dollar deal for Peretz members. If you spend, e.g. \$20 and say you are from the Peretz, she will give \$20 credit for Peretz. Donna has two of her quilts in mind to purchase. Elizabeth will not donate at this time, and in fact would like to take back some of her artwork now on display.

- ◆ **Vandalism:** Last Sunday morning (Oct. 18) the upstairs kitchen was left open and the dishwasher turned on at its raised position, which caused a roomful of steam and condensation puddles by the time losif discovered it. Water dripped down into the schoolroom storage. No idea who was responsible, but losif thinks it was one of our kids.

Meeting adjourned (MC; Mark). Next meeting: MONDAY, November 16.