

Draft Minutes of Kol Hadash Board Meeting, Friday, May 6, 2022, 10:30 am via Zoom

Present: Ed Berne, Bill Brostoff, Michelle Favreault, Dave Harris, Joyce Lewbin, Robin Raymer, Leslie Roos, Alana Shindler, Lindy Sinclair

Absent: Marilyn Boxer

1. The minutes of the KH board meeting of Friday, March 18, 2022 were approved with the correction that Alana hasn't joined Ashby Village.
2. Ed introduced and Michelle led a discussion of their collaborative rough draft of a "Kol Hadash 5-Year Plan (attached):

It's been a difficult couple of years, with declining membership, the pandemic and continuing pandemic, a changing Bay Area Jewish community, and our budget reality. The amount of programming we continued to provide to KH is a testament to its strengths. Our extended mailing list continues to let people know we're here but our challenges continue -- being an older community with a diminished leadership, without a building and without programming to offer younger people. Worthwhile options to pursue include: The Spinoza Havurah, a new online group, Ashby Village or a club within another organization of like-minded folks such as the Unitarians. What makes sense for the next steps with limited energy and resources? Do we end our operations? How to we say goodbye and support one another in finding homes in terms of connections within the Jewish community. We need to address ways of closing or merging on a less authoritative timeline than this June. We can spend the next six months trying to find who we might partner with. Our upcoming June membership meeting feels like the time to present the most viable options.

Alana applauded Michelle's positive planning and respectful ideas for ways to dissolve when the time comes. Lindy added that there's no obvious answer; we may be subsumed by another group or individual members of KH may join Ashby Village (AV) and create an interest group where people meet in homes for book and movie groups, with humanistic or secular Jewish oriented themes. Due to fees of \$600-1000, some members wouldn't be able to join AV. Joyce added that

only people living in the Ashby area and nearby zip codes would be allowed to join that specific village. If we dissolve, we could give money to the group that most shares KH ideals, like SHJ. Joyce would prefer to give KH money to one of our affiliates. Bill added that a discussion of what to do with our left over money is not a good use of today's meeting time. If we are subsumed by another group, our money would go to them. Lindy added that most importantly, we will bring additional members to a new group.

Ed proposed a straw poll of three choices:

Option 1: Empower Kim and Michelle to close down earlier rather than later, by the end of this calendar year in 2022;

Option two: Close up but in 2023 or 2024 but empower Michelle and Kimberly to program plan with other organizations to try joint activities and see how/where we might fit.

Option 3: We have enough money to employ and enjoy Michelle and Kimberly for another year, continuing as we are with the intention of closing.

Alana offered that when we met in 2020 before COVID, we wanted to find a way to keep going. Lindy pointed out that with a lack of leadership, we went one step further and hired Michelle, a big outcome but besides Michelle, there has been little follow through. We don't have enough leadership or a critical mass to do the work. We wrote a draft scope for a rabbi and came up with a KH operating manual.

After further discussion, Michelle summarized that we have an underlying desire to not close up right away before we attempt connections to other groups. It was decided that Michelle will organize formal and informal ways to join two-six groups with a formal recommendation process on which to join. Being as it's summer, with not a log of programming, maybe we look at next January as the time to make the decision. Over the next six months, Michelle will start organizing the telling of the KH story that will help decide which groups to affiliate with. If we are able to tell the story of KH by putting together a journal, documenting who we are, we will know ourselves better and others will be able to better learn about us in order to make the right match. We'll use the next six months to explore relationships, eg, hold joint bagel brunches with other groups, eg, the Berkeley Unitarian group and explore options for High Holidays. Some of us can easily transition to online groups. We have programming up to December-

January. If there are no good options, in January, we can start the process of closing down. This gives us until January, 2023 to make a final decision. We'll present this plan to our membership in June. Michelle will work with Kimberly on a draft and provide a work plan for next eight months.

3. Sunday, June 26th at 2:00 pm, was decided as the date for our next membership/business meeting. Ed asked Robyn if the Albany Community Center might be available on that date for us to meet in person. Joyce asked if the ZOOM option could be available as well, if we are able to meet in person. Dave responded that this would be difficult with our existing equipment limitations.

Questions were asked about the format for the All-Members' Business Meeting on June 26th. Will we be voting then on which option to choose? How should we present the options to members? (Ahead of time in an email or ahead of time in a snail-mail letter?) Michelle and Kimberly will draft a letter to send to members in advance of the business meeting. She will circulate the draft letter to the board for their approval at their next meeting. Leslie asked about getting absentee votes by mail from those unable to attend in person. The letter will include a list of the continuing board members as of June, 2022: President: Lindy Sinclair; Vice-President: Alana Shindler; Past President: Robyn Raymer; Treasurer: Ed Berne; At Large Members: Marilyn Boxer, Dave Harris, Joyce Lewbin; Secretary: Lee Salomon

Alana thanked Bill Brostoff and Leslie Roos for their time on the board. She will miss them and they expressed their appreciation for serving on the board.

4. Bill added that we needed to discuss the budget (attached) as it has to be approved by a quorum at the membership meeting. He proposed using the same budget for the proposed fiscal year as for last year. Bill asked Michelle to take a look at the budget as to what is realistic. The major expenses will remain the salaries. The dues will come in. Money is available from dues and our two bank accounts. They're funding sources rather than income. Income will be available once we receive the dues. Lindy will work with Bill on adjusting the budget for clarity.
5. Next board meeting: Friday, June 10th at 10:30 am

