

Minutes of the Shul Board Meeting, November 9, 2015

Present: Simcha Edel, Devora Preiss-Bloom, Menachem Zer Kavod, Michael Gillis, Bob Rosenschein, Yaacov Besthof, Alexis Rodgold, Avraham David. Guest: Noam Kom???, who presented an updated review on the subject of security.

1. The following were approved as authorized signatories: Yaacov Besthof, Menachem Zer Kavod and David Olivestone. The signatures of any two of them, plus the organization's stamp, obligate the organization.

2. The Shabbaton in Nachsholim was extremely successful and the weather was warm. 62 members attended. The expense of NIS 3,200 was approved to cover entry to the Alona park, the crocodiles (?) park and the Tel Dor museum, as well as payments to Friday's guide Anat Hoffman and Professor Kurt Raveh on Shabbat. The next Shabbaton is planned for May 27-28, 2016, with a tour of ancient synagogues south of Har Hebron, led by Dr. Doron Sar-Avi. We will spend Shabbat at the Susya guest house and will tour the area under his guidance.

3. Shul Security. In light of the current situation, the shul's security rota has been reinstituted. The coordinator continues to be our member Kalman Feinberg, whom we thank. It appears that what we are doing for security is much more than most Jerusalem shuls. The security procedures will be distributed again to our members, and we will comply with them. Members who have not yet volunteered should do so and not shirk it. Kalman Feinberg will be inviting the guards for a refresher training session with Jonathan Kelman. It was also agreed that someone armed with a personal weapon will sit next to the synagogue doors on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings. (This will be a paid person in the morning.) This person will be ready to respond to the guard's whistle in case of an alarm. It should be emphasized that a guard from a regular security company would be extremely expensive and on a lower level of effectiveness than the soldiers who daven with us. The yellow vest and the whistle hang near the Aron Kodesh, and the gas gun is in Mr. Brukheimer's box. Other equipment is kept in the Beit Midrash.

4. An emergency exit door is in the upper part of the women's section. We need to expedite the approval of the municipality for an additional emergency exit in the northeast corner of the synagogue.

5. Divrei Torah on the Parsha on Shabbat. It was decided to stress again that the speaker must stand only on the bimah, as indeed was done on Shabbat Vayera by Alexis Rodgold, so that the women can also see and hear. Someone who refuses to speak from the bimah, and thus discriminates against half of the mitpallelim, should not be asked to speak. It is important to persuade more women to agree to give the Dvar Torah on Shabbat. The Dvar Torah should be delivered only by those who can do so within seven minutes.

Submitted by Menachem Zer Kavod and Michael Gillis