

Thursday, June 30, 1949 - Temple at 8:45. (58 present) some arriving 10:00

A general meeting of the congregation was held on Thursday, June 30 at the Temple. Dr. Ekker, president, presiding. He explained briefly that the meeting was called to discuss plans, specifications, contracts and to get approval or disapproval for membership.

Mr. Epstein, chairman of the planning committee said work had begun two years ago. Then it was found to be beyond the scope of our community. They had recalled architect, explained problem, reviewed and revised plans and finally come to an agreement at a meeting Monday night, June 27.

The bid now offered is a low one, and Mr. Epstein said he felt the community would be able and willing to go ahead. If we can get approval, we can go ahead and possibly have the structure by February or March.

Dr. Ekker explained the floor plan, copy of which was handed to all members present. The main chapel will seat 375, the small one about 80.

He then called on Attorney Routman, general chairman and head of the finance committee, who conducted the meeting informally, since it was held to get the opinion of all members and to answer questions.

Mr. Routman gave background of the planning committee's work. He mentioned questions which had arisen, such as suitability of location, gymnasium, parking facilities, how they had surveyed the town for possible other locations and discussed all plans before arriving at those accepted. He discussed architectural plans in fullest detail - he feels physical set up as outlined is the most complete and adequate that could be planned within our budget.

He called for questions on the building and there were none.

He then turned to question of fund raising, saying a building can't be built with desires and hopes, must have cash. We have approx ~~\$35,000~~ from last collection, after paying for part of land and architects fees. Need roughly \$125,000 more. This is a lot of money, but we hope to work it out as a 5 year plan.

As a healthy Jewish community, we have occasional differences, but we are sound. Our Temple has served us for generation, but is no longer adequate, Mr. Routman said. If we don't build, our children will have to and another generation will have missed this. We owe it to our community and to ourselves to have a proper Temple, for a Temple serves us from birth to death.

This will call for generous contributions, but we are a generous community. From a small group contacted as a test, \$50,000 was pledged by about 12 people. Every Jewish person will have to be contacted to raise the remaining \$75,000. He asked for opinions at this time. Are we ready to spend this kind of money to fulfill our dreams?

Rabbi Abramowitz then spoke. He said, altho we have accomplished a lot in these surroundings, and God hears our prayers wherever made, we could add to the dignity and fulness of our worship and communal life. The planning committee is enthusiastic and has worked diligently and faithfully, but each of us, too, must be emissaries to share the burden, to show the need to raise this building to honor our community and each of us as well.

Dr. Ekker then asked for opinion of the group on the matter of going ahead.

If approved ^{we} would start probing for amount to be raised. Myer Frank said he was for it. Julie Levine asked how we can delay. Leon Bolotin asked what steps would be taken. ~~xxxxxx~~ Mr. Routman said a fund raising dinner is the intelligent way, but time is short. If community feels it feasible to build, we should get substantial pledges and start at once. He explained that the group who met at his house was an experimental one. They had planned to have other group meetings, too. Mrs. Alex Polangin said with the amount on hand and that pledged she felt we should go ahead. Mr. Marks explained, too, that the groups who met had been his idea, and they were actually "probing" not fund raising. When planning committee found response liberal, they decided to go ahead.

Mrs. Gerson, Sisterhood president, said \$3500 has been put aside to equip kitchen and they have been waiting seven years to go ahead.

Mr. Routman said money, given over period of five years, must be secured by notes.

There was no further discussion, so J.B. Goldberg moved and Mrs. Krieger seconded that we proceed with building.

Mrs. Rabb asked if this would include equipment in the low contract of \$138,000. It was explained this was just building - plumbing and heating \$16,700. electric \$6300 -- around 162,000. With architects fees, equipment landscaping it would figure around \$200,000 less what we get for old structure.

Mr. Marks suggested dinner as well as small meetings and this will be followed out by the planning committee.

Vote was taken and motion carried.

Mr. Epstein suggested that we formulate plans for fund raising immediately.

Meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Rosenblum, Secretary.

*\$ 70000 on hand
approved 7/25/49*