

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Leo Baek Centre for Progressive Judaism 7 May 2023

Present: Michael Taft, Deborah Ogawa, Patricia Fenner, Karen Silberberg, Val Silberberg, Hugh Berryman-Brook, Brenda Brook, Alan Feldman, Joel Cohen, Evelyne Perks, Matthew Rose, Alison Harcourt, Pierre Harcourt, Caroline Oblak, Mark Pryor, Jonathan Barnett, Martin Abraham, Rena Lopata, Alex Lopata, Rob Kendall, Julie Contole, Danielle Dotson, Gary Adler, Alan Harvey, George and Kathy Deutsch, Janet Bau, John Orkin, Monica Petterson, Janice Quinter, Harvey Cohen, Ailsa Jean, Jerome Winston, Tanya Warms, David Filcoff, Paula Messer, Jen Glaser, Dorothy Kerron, Anthony Kerron, Lisa Sylvan, Maurice Duband, Michael Polack, Stephen Hacker

Present on Zoom: Ellis Edwards, Gillian Lubansky, Jonathan Taft, David Halprin, Kate Prinsley, Margaret Masur, Leah Mow-Yoffee and Deb Absler (Kedem)

Proxies: Rachel Popelka-Filcoff, Suzie Reiss, Colin Reiss, Gena Reiss, Tom Beer, Mathel Gottlieb-Drucker, Simon Grosser, Sandra Hacker, Lisa Grosman, Ashley Warmbrand, Barbara Mushin, David Mushin, Rebecca Lubansky, Ron Steiner, Virginia Steiner, Tommy Rosham, Paul Rosham, Julie-Anne Lilenthal, Ayal Marek and Felix Menke.

We acknowledge that our sanctuary is on land whose traditional custodians are the Wurundjeri people, and we pay our respects to the elders past and present of the First Nations across Australia.

We acknowledged that there was a quorum, which allowed the meeting to proceed.

General Business

1. Acceptance of the previous minutes from the last Annual General Meeting

Motion: This meeting accepts the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (2022);

Moved: Karen Silberberg

Seconded: Alan Feldman

Accepted by show of hands.

2. Acceptance of the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements

Discussion of Reports

- a) The President Michael Taft spoke about a difficult and busy year with our Rabbi, Jonathan Keren Black, in his final year. Please see the report.
- b) Instead of a Rabbi's report, Pierre Harcourt, as head of our rabbi search group, gave an update. Rabbi Jonathan wished us well and offered his apologies for not being in attendance due to his travelling. We have advertised and have had a number of applicants and the committee is working through a short list.
- c) Treasurer's report. Mark Pryor spoke. Mark was confirmed by the Committee as the advisor to the Treasurer for the past year, and thanks were extended to him for his support. The results show a loss and the cash position went down by around \$60,000. Some monies that had been expected were not received during the year but have since been collected. Should we have received the cash when expected, this would have reduced the loss to approx. \$10,000. The overall net loss is still about \$30,000. Membership is close to 70% of our income. The income from members has been relatively static. The Committee is seeking to

address income/expense imbalance in a 10 year strategic plan. The Committee plans to have a discussion and consultation with Members at a Town Hall, currently scheduled for 18th June. [postscript: Just after closing the AGM, a decision was made to delay the meeting to 23rd July.]

These reports were tabled:

- (i) LBC Annual Report 2022; and
- (ii) the 2022 LBC Audited Financial Statements;

Motion: The LBC Annual Report for 2022 and the Audited Financial Statements be accepted.

Moved: Mark Pryor

Seconded: Paula Messer

Accepted by a show of hands.

3. Acceptance of the annual subscription and joining fees.

The amounts of the Annual Subscription and Joining Fees were tabled. To summarise: The full family and family partnership are increased by around 3%; pensioners will see an increase of half of that or 1.5%. Country members will see slightly more of an increase but on a low base. This was to acknowledge the more opportunity this group has to participate with the Zooming and offset some of that IT cost. Due date will be 31 March 2024.

Motion: The annual subscription and joining fees schedule as outlined be accepted.

Moved: Steve Hacker

Seconded: Anthony Kerron

Accepted by show of hands.

4. Acceptance of a special resolution.

Before we moved on to electing the members of the Committee of Management, VP Deborah Ogawa introduced the Special Resolution.

Special Resolution: "Michael Taft shall be entitled to hold the office of President for three or more consecutive terms."

Moved: Karen Silberberg

Seconded: George Deutsch

Accepted by a show of hands.

The floor wished to thank Michael Taft for his presidency taking us through difficult times and his many years of wonderful service to this community (George Deutsch). Members clapped their appreciation.

5. Election for the members of the Committee of Management;

As we have the same number of nominations as number of positions available, thus these people when mentioned will be duly elected.

Officers/Exec Members:

President: Michael Taft

Co-VP: Michael Polack, Deborah Ogawa

Co-Treasurer: Mark Pryor, Matt Rose*

Secretary: Karen Silberberg

Ordinary:

Jen Glaser

Pierre Harcourt

Steve Hacker

Jonathan Barnett

Caroline Oblak

Patricia Fenner

Tanya Warms

Alan Feldman

Linda Stern

The President Michael Taft expressed his thanks to all of the Committee members for agreeing to serve for another term, and welcome Mark and Linda as new members.

*postscript: Following the close of the AGM an issue with this member's nomination form was discovered. The Committee requested the member to be co-opted from the next Committee meeting in May.

6. Appointment of the Honorary Auditor(s) and Solicitor(s) of the Association;

Motion: LBC appoints as Honorary Auditor - Lowe Lippmann and as Honorary Solicitor(s) of the Association - Geoffrey Shiff, Partner, Shiff & Company

Moved: George Deutsche

Seconded: Mark Pryor

Accepted by a show of hands.

As no other business was submitted to us, the meeting closed at 4:46pm.