

CAULFIELD HEBREW CONGREGATION
MINUTES OF CHC SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CAULFIELD SHULE, THE SUKIERT MEMORIAL HALL
572 INKERMAN ROAD, CAULFIELD NORTH, VICTORIA
ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021
7:30 PM

1. Welcome

President, David Mond welcomed the members in attendance and thanked them for attending.

2. Attendees:

Members: Steven Abromwich, Jeffrey Appel, Vera Aron, William Best, Michael Borowick, Barry Brott, Michael Brott, Max Dzienciol, Barry Eizenberg, Isaac Feldman, Daphne Gaddie, Jack Gaddie, Danny Gluck, Eskell Goldberg, Mira Goldberg, Joe Grynberg, Bruce Joske, Bernard Kagan, Pearl Kagan, Brian Kamenetsky, Bill Klinger, Ruth Kurc, Selwyn Meyrowitz, Rachel Mihalovich, Allen Millner, Bat Sheva Milner, Elizabeth Minc, Arnold Moss, Geroge Neuhauser, Sam Parasol, Ruth Parasol, Reuben Poswell, David Prins, Maurice Richter, Karen Richter, Richard Rogers, Roslyn Rogers, Adam Slonim, David Solomon, Myer Steinberg, Mark Sztar, Michael Sztar, Raphael Sztrochlic, Matt Szylit, Rosa Szylit, Lex Tannenbaum, Evan Thornley, Gabor Ujvari, Adele Weil, Robert Weil, Pauline Wroby, Henry Zeimer, Howard Zeimer, Ofer Zelig, Devorah Zmood, Ronald Zmood, Arthur Zulman

In attendance: Yossi Aron

Minutes: Rachel Mihalovich

Apologies: Dr Mim Weisz OAM, Tibi Weisz, Rodney Horin, Anthony Raitman, Martin Meier, Tommy Winter

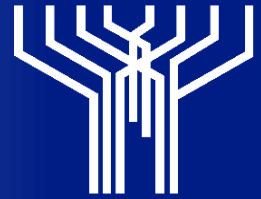
2 Special Business – Officials of the Congregation

The President presented the reason for the meeting being to pass a resolution to appoint Rabbi Daniel Rabin as a Senior Rabbi of CHC. He explained that the constitution requires that the members ratify the appointment of a Rabbi and that the constitution does not currently have a clause relating to the appointment and member ratification of a Rebbetzin.

The President read the resolution as follows;

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of Members:

“Noting that the Board resolved on 24 June 2021 to approve the appointment of Rabbi Daniel Rabin as a Senior Rabbi of CHC, that pursuant to clause 40(1) of the Constitution of CHC, the appointment of Rabbi Daniel Rabin to the position of Senior Rabbi of CHC, on terms and conditions to be set out in a legally binding document duly signed by the parties, be ratified and confirmed.”



Moved Richard Rogers

Seconded Dr Issy Feldman

The President invited Richard Rogers, Chair of the Rabbinic Couple Selection Sub-Committee, to speak in favour of the motion.

Richard (RR) said it was rewarding to see the turn out for what will be an exciting and vibrant period for the synagogue. He introduced the members of the selection committee including Barry Brott, Ruth Kurc, Dr Issy Feldman and David Mond.

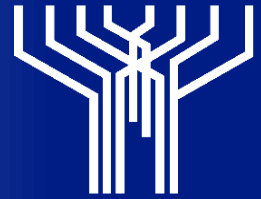
RR said it was extraordinary working with the committee who undertook enormous amount of work in a short period of time and were always available for meetings.

RR presented a brief overview of the process undertaken to get to the appointment of the Rabins.

- Advertisement in AJN
- Gmail set up for specific purpose
- Emailed the congregation to inform them
- Briefed ABL, honorary solicitors
- Received 7 applications from NZ and within Australia
- Due to the difficulties of COVID and resettling families from overseas, the only international applicant that could be explored was from NZ
- 7 applications were reviewed extensively. It was decided not to pursue 3.
- 4 applicant couples were interviewed.
- A series of 30 questions were compiled by the committee.
- The committee shortlisted 2 couples who were re interviewed by the committee and the chair.
- The committee discussed the merits and concerns of both couples.
- The committee made a unanimous decision to select Rabbi Daniel and Sarah Rabin. The Rabins were informed and were very excited.
- Contracts were completed.
- The CHC board was called to a special meeting and a recommendation was presented to accept the Rabins as the Rabbinic couple. The recommendation was carried unanimously by the board.
- The contracts were signed by the President and counter signed by he treasurer, Martin Meier.
- A notice was sent out to the community to call a SGM.
- Rabbi Rabin notified his board at the same time that the CHC board made the decision to offer the Rabbi and Rebbetzin the position.

RR provided an overview of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Rabin's backgrounds. CVs attached to these minutes.

RR noted that the Rabbinic Couple Selection committee wholeheartedly recommend the Rabins to the appointment of Rabbi and Rebbetzin of CHC.



RR welcomed questions from the floor.

The questions and discussion from the floor included:

- Rabbi and Rebbetzin Rabin will commence at CHC November 1 2021.
- The committee was thanked for their great service and for doing a great job in explaining the process they undertook.
- Query re the contracts, to be made available to the members in redacted form so that the members can understand the terms of their engagement.

RR explained it would be difficult to share a document that is commercial in confidence and that it would be unusual to have these contracts made public. There are provisions in the contract re ethical standards, work practices and individual position descriptions for both the Rabbi and Rebbetzin. CHC can consider disclosing the PDs.

Three firms of solicitors have looked at the contract on a pro bono basis and were satisfied with the PDs and gave appropriate trigger points for judgement of KPIs as necessary.

- It was confirmed that Rabbi Rabin is a Zionist, committed to Israel, will lead Hatikva and has led five birthright missions to Israel.
- Member comment that the particular clause in the constitution doesn't mention the appointment of a rabbi.

The President responded that the constitution refers to officials not Rabbi. The appointment is consistent in the appointment of Rabbi Genende in the position of Senior Rabbi.

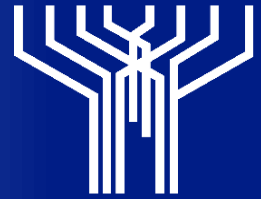
- Member comment that Rabbi Rabin moves jobs quickly.

RR disagreed stating Rabbi Rabin had been at North Eastern Synagogue 7 years which is significant and the move from North Eastern to Sth Caulfield was logical and that Rabbi Rabin has been there a reasonable time being 3.5 years.

- Member comment that we should be appreciative to have the Rabins who connect unbelievably with young people. His drashas are sensational and he is wise. He is engaging and has a degree in counselling. He has empathy and cares. He is wise and gives empathetic advice. His advice is halachic and not Chabad advice.

Rebbetzin Sarah is veracious, powerful and has a mission to make shidduchim. She keeps a book of shidduchim. She takes members out and has everyone in their home for Shabbat. She connects with the young girls she teaches.

This community is what they have been striving to lead.



- Rabbi Rabin is 39.
- Member comment that there are already lots of Lubavitch options in Melbourne. Was the type of Rabbi a consideration of the selection committee?

RR responded that the committee was looking for the best couple to fulfil the needs of the congregation. One of the concerns was the Zionist aspect of a Chabad Rabbi and that was investigated. If the applications that the committee received were not appropriate they would not have appointed a Rabbi.

- Member comment that the Rabins are a good couple. Our constitution says we are signators to the Jeusalem program. We are a Modern Orthodox Zionist Shule. It is appropriate that we appoint a Modern Orthodox Zionist couple. A Rabbi and Rabbanit.

Our community needs to be Israel centred we face in the community now to be Israel centred not New York. There are 61 shules in Melbourne that have Chabad Rabbi or couple leading them. This is not appropriate for our shule. There are couples, Rabbi and Rabbinit, who can teach and guide women who are taking on pulpits themselves in the modern world.

Taking on a Chabad light/Lubavitch couple is a step backwards.

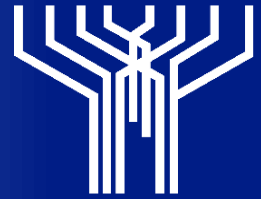
The Rabins had the largest Shabbat dinner in campus history and after he left AUJS are dealing with an onslaught of anti-Semitism that the Chabad chaplains are not dealing with.

Our shule needs inward engagement that the couple will give. We also need an outward view of community. We don't just need a charismatic couple. We need a Modern Orthodox couple and we had the opportunity to appoint one.

We require leadership in a very Zionist, Jewish continuity and not Chabad way.

The President confirmed that the Constitution and contract requires that we are Synagogue that embraces the Ashkenzi rights and the President agreed that Jewish continuity is important and about delivering outcomes. Even if we searched around the world they would have been first choice for their commitment to Jewish continuity, assets and talent.

The President asserted that this appointment completes generational change. The Baby boomers have an obligation to hand the baton to the next generation for them to take the lead. In that category we have a world class Chazan Dov Farkas, outstanding CEO, Engagement Office and we are now going to have a Rabbi and Rebbetzin to deliver success for us all.



- Member comment that Chabad pride themselves on being strict on being extremely strict in their observance and are not tolerant of other observances. What safeguards are there that the Rabins will conduct themselves in a way that the members are used to?

The President responded that the candidates were all interrogated on these matters. The Rabins are people of great ethics, sincere, hardworking and believe in what they are doing and committed to solid outcomes.

The President called for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution passed on a show of hands with only one objection.

The Special General Meeting concluded at 8.30 pm