

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – January 20, 2021

Present [meeting conducted virtually by Zoom]: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Dora Chen, Jill Chenok, Andrew Engel, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, John Hellerman, Kenneth Jaffe, Deborah Lewis, Nancy Liebermann, Matthew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Steve Sacks, Natalie Selzer, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Croen, Cantor-Educator Robins, Acting Director Ali Hurewitz, and Ellen Agler.

Call to order: With a quorum of the Board members present, the meeting was called to order by Temple Sinai President Deborah Lewis at 7:33 p.m.

D’Var Torah: Nancy Liebermann delivered the D’Var Torah.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the December 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – the January 2021 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided a summary of the financial report. On the revenue side: a) regarding member financial commitments, for cash collected, we are at 94% of last year’s budget which is better than the 12% reduction projected for the year and we collected 94% of member dues as compared to 90% in December 2019; b) regarding the Annual Fund, as of January 14, 2021, the (lower) projection for this year has been exceeded by \$29k, with approximately half of the donations from members fulfilling capital campaign pledges with annual fund designations. Per the written report, on the expense side, expenses for general administration areas are trending lower than last year, with the exception of the two major COVID-related expenses of the HHD Sinai5781.com website and the severance payments. For the Nursery School, the projected budget is not included in the Committee’s report. The Nursery School’s year-to-date income less expense is (\$522k). It is expected that the Nursery School Fund combined with its allocation from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will cover this cash deficit. The projected Religious School/Youth budget was updated on October 20, 2020 to reflect actual enrollment with a bottom line projected temple investment of \$215k. The Finance Committee is also unanimously recommending that the Temple apply for the second round of PPP funds. Consideration of the Temple budget is being deferred until next month.
- **Development report** – Ken Jaffe provided a brief update regarding development efforts and solicitations and reported that the Annual Fund appears to be surpassing the adjusted, conservative target goal due to the generosity of Temple members. At present, we are approximately \$51k ahead of expectations with considerable monies raised to support social action efforts.

- **Nominating Committee report** – Gary Friend gave a report on behalf of the Nominating Committee, including a summary of its first meeting. The goal is to provide recommendations for a slate of 9 officers and 4 trustees (2 of whom will be new trustees) to be voted on by the Board in April 2021, and thereafter to be ratified by the membership in May 2021. The Committee will also be making recommendations regarding future members for the new Nominating Committee (with 5 new members to be recruited).

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **Security Update:** Rabbi Roos and Ellen Agler provided an update concerning security in light of current events. Although there is no immediate need for an updated security protocol, we will be starting in the near future to revisit building assessments and recommendations, and to submit a federal DHS grant to benefit our security position. There was a discussion about security for congregation members who are anticipated to be joining the new Biden administration.
- **Second Round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):** Naomi Camper discussed the PPP, the revised parameters for the program, whether the Temple will likely qualify for additional funds, the forgiveness application for the first round of PPP funds, and the recommendation that, in light of the future uncertainties, the Board approve a second application for PPP loans for the maximum amount available (approximately \$885k, a certain percentage of which may ultimately be forgiven). On two motions, the Board unanimously approved: a) the recommendation to submit a second PPP application; and b) authorized the Temple to proceed with the application while a notice is issued for another general congregational meeting to approve in advance and/or ratify retroactively the application.
- **Religious School Update:** Cantor Robins provided a summary of the Religious School operations, programming by grade, the current student enrollment of 397 (a 25% overall decrease in enrollment, which is less than the reduction experienced by other religious schools), staffing, core values, student connection, prayer, remote attendance, and technology. Cantor Robins also discussed the uncertainties and considerations around possible future reopening of in-person learning and advised that no concrete plans have yet been made.
- **Nursery School Update:** Ali Hurewitz led the discussion regarding the Nursery School, including updated operational plans, enrollment, programming, safety measures, planning for reopening in the fall of 2021, the results of the recent faculty survey (with 100% of teachers and staff interested in returning), community meetings with parents, and the ongoing admissions/re-enrollment process. Approximately 50 children are currently enrolled in remote learning.
- **Member Meeting:** Deborah Lewis discussed the recent Congregational Member Meeting on January 7, 2021, which appears to have been well-received.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – Deborah Lewis provided an oral report.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report, including the conclusion of Rabbi Diamondstein's transition committee and he extended a warm welcome back to Rabbi Goldstein, who has recently returned from maternity leave. Rabbi Roos advised that he currently plans to take his (deferred) sabbatical in May, June and July of 2021.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted. Ellen Agler also provided an oral report regarding work on new member engagement program and efforts to reach current members.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary