

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 18, 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Board: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Rita Brickman, Jill Chenok, Andrew Engel, Larry Freedman, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Katie Herman, Deborah Lewis, Matthew Pachman, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Todd Rosentover, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler.

Staff: Ellen Agler, Hannah Goldstein, Rebecca Robins, Jonathan Roos, Adam Rosenwasser

Absent:

Board: Naomi Camper, Isabel Dunst, John Hellerman, Mica Maltzman, Andrew Mannes, Stephen Messner,

Staff: Laura Croen, Robyn Helzner, Perri Iger-Silversmith

Call to order:

Gary Friend called the meeting to order at 7:30, introduced the evening's agenda

D'var Torah:

Deborah Lewis delivered the D'var Torah

Board Operations and General Business:

June 2018 Meeting Minutes: Approved with correction that Catherine Ribnick volunteered to spearhead coordination of volunteer utilization and developing framework for social action volunteering across initiatives (incorrectly reported as Cathy Goldwyn).

July 2018 Membership Report: There was a discussion sharing practices of Temple outreach to those who resign to ensure financial access is not an impediment to membership. There was general praise for membership welcome bag program and encouragement for more board participation in the effort. One resignation was removed from the list pending further outreach from the clergy and the report was approved.

Fiscal Year End 2018 Financial Report: Finance Committee Chair Deborah Lewis presented the report, highlighting the end of year surplus of \$210,000. The board was reminded that surplus funds in excess of \$10K may be moved by Finance Chair and Exec Dir to surplus fund.

Updates and Discussion

Israel Committee Resolution for Disbursements: The Committee's slate of grantees was reviewed and questions were addressed about the selection process for beneficiary organizations. Rabbi Roos and Former Committee Chair Michael Sussman shared how the Committee follows a process designed by Committee members who have experience working in private institutional foundation management. It was shared that Committee members recuse themselves from voting on grants when they serve on the board or in other leadership capacities of potential grantee organizations. The resolution for current disbursements as proposed by the committee was approved.

Development: Committee Chair Seth Speyer reported on the FY 2018-2019 Committee focus for the year, to include (1) continuation of building marketing and individual outreach initiatives in support of the Annual Fund with a goal of raising unrestricted current-use support and (2) focus on rebranding and invigoration of the Rimonim Legacy Society, recognizing those who name Temple Sinai among the beneficiaries of their charitable estate plans.

Capital Campaign: Co-Chair Andrew Engel briefed the board on progress for the campaign. To-date \$2.6M had been committed by 35 donors. The early emphasis remains on securing 100% participation from the Board of Directors. Co-Chair Engel reported on presenting facilities enhancement design concept plans to the June building committee, which was received with unanimous support. WRJ representative Brickman requested time to review the plan to ensure WRJ storage and program needs are being met. Suggestions were raised about integrating messaging about the campaign into high holiday remarks, which will be taken into consideration by the President and Clergy. Co-Chair Engel shared that the next phase of campaign preparation includes the Strategic Planning Committee review to ensure the campaign goals match needs as identified in the congregation's strategic plan and to use the plan to guide prioritization and pace funding.

Reports

President's Report

Gary Friend highlighted the 2018-2019 board meeting special topics list. Friend thanked Catherine Ribnik for volunteering to coordinate the board high holy days congregational phone-a-thon and encouraged full participation from board. Friend thanked Laura Steel for volunteering to coordinate the service representative signups Friday Shabbat and Saturday B'nei mitzvah services. The board was reminded to sign up for a minimum 4 services, otherwise Steel will assign board members on rotation to fill slots. Friend acknowledged the WRJ for participating in the civic engagement campaign of the URJ Religious Action Committee, encouraging congregations to

sponsor programs to build voter registration and turnout and emphasize the mitzvah that is voting. WRJ Representative Rita Brickman confirmed a focus to target outreach to encourage voting by adult children of member and senior needing help to access voting. They will also be providing links for voter registration for the benefit of general membership. Board members present expressed strong support for WRJ efforts.

Senior Rabbi's Report

Jonathan Roos referred board to Rabbi's Report and shared positive experiences with the recently completed congregational trip to Israel, which enjoyed the largest registration of the program to date.

Executive Director's Report

Ellen Agler referred board to Executive Director's Report, highlighting communications initiative with new format for print temple communication. Moving forward the Temple will distribute a printed communication every other month, which will be a blending of the formerly separate electronic newsletter and printed seasonal program guide. This is in response to feedback that the previous electronic newsletter did not have wide adoption, while the program guide was seen as coming out too infrequently to be of maximum use. In addition, the new format frees up staff time to focus on planned migration of Temple Sinai web site to URJ platform that will allow for elevated communication and connection across platforms.

Other Topics

Friend reviewed the Board of Directors member engagement report, showing members' committee affiliations and reminded new members to identify interests. Friend shared that recent board member Jeff Kaye stepped down from board service to focus on ritual engagement in the Temple. Appreciation was expressed for Kaye's service.

Ziegler shared the news of the passing of TS Hebrew teacher Leesa Fine. Deep appreciation was expressed for Fine's legacy in adult education at Temple Sinai.

The Board adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted by Seth Speyer