

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
June 19, 2019

Present: Ellen Agler, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Jill Chenok, Laura Croen, Laurence Freedman, Cathy Goldwyn, John Hellerman, Katie Herman, Ken Jaffe, Nancy Lieberman, Deborah Lewis, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnik, Jonathan Roos, Elizabeth Rose, Todd Rosentover, Stephen Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Stephen Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, Julius Weiss, Regina Ziegler

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Deborah Lewis at 7:25 p.m.

BOARD ORIENTATON

As the first meeting of the fiscal year, Lewis reviewed the characteristics of effective board membership including: preparation for meetings with advance materials; listening and being present during meetings; voicing opinions and speaking up when needed, and understanding that once disagreements are aired and decisions are made board members speak as one voice in the congregation; committed passionate advocacy for Temple and programs; making decisions as fiduciaries for the congregation as a whole, after considering all interests.

Board Responsibilities

Lewis reviewed the Board responsibilities, distributed in advance of the meeting, with special emphasis on attendance at board meetings; reviewing documents in advance; commitment to participate above and beyond meetings on task forces, projects, committees; serving as board rep for minimum 4 services during the year (2 shabbat, 2 b'nei mitzvah) & welcoming all visitors to the synagogue; presenting a d'var torah at board meeting during term; participating in high holiday greetings; volunteering during high holidays as ushering and service participants; 100% participation in the annual fund & capital campaign, regardless of amount; completing conflict of interest disclosures and providing updates to the office as needed. Discussion followed on the value of committees and task forces as important avenues of engagement and role of board in financial oversight, with special mention of the role of the Finance Committee in crafting budget with input from staff & committees; monitoring dashboard and progress; complying with annual audit by independent accounting firm; and existence of two sub committees: audit committee and investment committee with reminder the bylaws state an individual must chair the Finance Committee for

two years before serving as president. Lewis also reinforced that the board reviews the Temple financial score card each meeting and reviews and approves audit & policies with regard to finances.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

April 2019 meeting minutes – unanimously approved

May/June Membership report – reflection that spring is busy time as families find religious school and are looking at synagogue communities for affiliation; new members joining, member passings, terminations from significant arrears on membership contributions; and resignations, but only after proactive outreach by staff to minimize attrition. A recommendation was made that whenever possible the membership report reflect interests expressed by individual family member, not just by family unit – Membership report unanimously approved

Financial Report – Marcie Solomon, Finance Committee Chair, reported that fiscal year 2019 report was complete. There was a \$280,000 surplus due to greater than budgeted membership commitments, greater than budgeted earnings on invest (15% over), lower than budgeted administrative expenses with below budget labor. Communications expenses were higher than budgeted as result of mailed quarterly. Nursery school performed above budget and as a result made an unanticipated \$20,000 transfer to Temple operations. The Finance Committee is updating investment policy, which will be brought to board for vote.

Check Signing Authority Resolution: Required to update those with authorization to sign checks - Approved with three abstentions.

Refugee Support Resolution: Rabbi Roos presented on Temple Sinai's efforts as a sanctuary congregation. The current Temple Sinai fund for refugee resettlement holds \$27,000. TS recently welcomed the brother and family of a current refugee under Temple Sinai care. Temple member donated house for refugee use. Temple members donated medical services. Member immigration attorney working with ICE on behalf of family. Membership support on all immigrant and refugee support issues: meals, children supplies, generosity of TS community in resources, time, financial support is extraordinary. Rabbi Roos highlighted how asylum seekers are unable to work for minimum six months from filing application for asylum. The Refugee Support Resolution was approved unanimously.

Leadership Development Program: Nominations for this important leadership engagement program are encouraged and to be sent to Michael Sussman. A recommendation was made to more widely market the program to the community to encourage self-identification of interest from congregants.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Annual Meeting Recap: Lewis reported that at the Annual Meeting ¾ of proposed bylaw changes were passed, all but the proposal related to executive session exclusion. The task force will review and resubmit to board. Continued support was expressed for the annual meeting raffle.

High Holiday member greetings: The call level for the annual board outreach has become a burden. That said, there is unanimous acknowledgement of the benefit in the outreach. For High Holiday's 2019 everyone will still receive an outreach list, but board members and other volunteers will be able to work independently to do their outreach by email, note card, and/or card at their convenience. There was general support for the change. Suggestions were made to continue to call older members and to continue to engage committee chairs. Laurence Freedman volunteered to coordinate the 2019 Board High Holiday greeting program.

Summer Clergy Schedule: Rabbi Roos briefed the board on the clergy summer schedule, and balance of Temple coverage. Summer 2019 is particularly full, balancing a wedding, two sabbaticals, and paternal leave. All has been arranged while still maintaining full coverage for pastoral care.

Brit Olam: Rabbi Roos reported on Temple Sinai's reaffirmation of the Reform Movement's Social action covenant from the Religious Action Center, highlighting that Temple Sinai is already actively advocating for virtually all the issues called for in the Brit Olam: immigration justice, gun violence prevention, environmental justice, racial justice, reproductive justice. Motion for TS to sign on as congregation to 2019 Brit Olam approved unanimously.

Capital Campaign: Campaign Co-Chair Naomi Camper reported that the congregation has raised more than \$8M and is working to an enhanced goal of \$10M. 25% of congregation has already participated. The Campers will be hosting a thank you event for campaign donors on July 23rd.

REPORTS

President's Report: As submitted, with highlight that Ken Jaffe has accepted role of Development Committee Chair and Anita Stoll as Communications Committee Chair. Lewis also encouraged board

members familiarize self with URJ & Tent and consider attending the URJ biennial December 11-15, 2019 in Chicago.

Rabbi Report: Rabbi Roos reported that the Clergy & Administrative Leadership completed a three-day retreat with facilitator, including a visit to Union Market (similar to past visits to A Wider Circle & Sinai House to study mission and how organizations further their work in support of the mission. The retreat also focused on High Holiday 2019 planning.

Executive Director's Report: As submitted

Meeting Adjourned 9:05

Respectfully submitted, Seth D. Speyer, Secretary