

**TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**  
**July 17, 2019 – updated September 18, 2019**

**Present:** Ellen Agler, Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Jill Chenok, Laurence Freedman, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, John Hellerman, Ken Jaffe, Julia Kepniss, Deborah Lewis, Mathew Pachman, Deitra Reiser, Rebecca Robins, Jonathan Roos, Elizabeth Rose, Todd Rosentover, Adam Rosenwasser, Perri Iger-Silversmith, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Lewis at 7:35 p.m.

**D’var Torah: Michael Baratz**

**BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

**June 2019 meeting minutes:** unanimously approved

**May/June Membership report:** unanimously approved; Jill Chenok reminded Board the value and impact of voluntary Board welcome calls and encouraged all to participate. Any relevant information learned in the call may be shared with Ellen Agler and Karen Auerbach, who will route the follow up accordingly.

**Financial Report:** Ellen Agler provided report, confirming Temple finances are on track. She noted the Finance Committee is evaluating impact of 2019-2020 religious school enrollment being lower than in past years and will report their assessment to Board.

**Development Report:** Ken Jaffe provided report, highlighting focus of committee efforts on capital campaign, marketing of annual fund, and Rimonim Society.

**Capital Campaign:** Updated on progress: \$8.2M committed from 320 family units (26% of congregation)

**Parsonage:** Annual renewal vote taken for calendar 2019; passed unanimously.

**UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Renovations and Expansion Plans:** Deborah Lewis reported that three bids were made for renovation plans; committee identified items to forgo to remain within \$10M budget, with understanding they can be added back should campaign progress exceed \$10M. The deferral List (projects that can be added back in future include: partition of social hall; adjusted bimah design; select class room improvements; Bet Am hallway; upgraded building exterior materials; select lower level renovations; and the Military Road access ramp. The social hall partition to allow for more flexible spaces and the upper bimah ramp will be prioritized to be added back in as finances allow.

**High Holiday Greetings (Outreach 2.0):** Larry Freedman presented on approach to 2019 Board High Holiday Congregational Greetings. This year the Board's traditional outreach will allow for more flexibility in approach. Board members are invited to conduct outreach as calls, emails, or hand written notes; with the flexibility intended to decrease the burden on the board yet still maintain the valuable greetings. Assignments will be distributed by September 14 with roughly 45 member units assigned per board member. Goal is for outreach to be complete by September 21.

**Leadership Development Project:** Michael Sussmann presented on plans to revitalize this program, last completed in 2015-2016 under the leadership of John Hellerman when 25 people participated. It was noted that several from the 2015-2016 cohort went on to take leadership volunteer roles at Temple, including board membership and committee assignments. There will be five sessions held from October 2019 through March 2020, with suggestion to consider outplacement as part of March session to help engage those enthusiastic about volunteering further when done. Active recruitment is taking place and referrals are welcome.

**Reproductive Justice Listening Session (TSWRJ):** Lisa Tucker reported that in May the URJ Consultation on Conscience added reproduction justice to cohort on social action, which Temple Sinai adopted. Listening sessions were conducted at Temple to determine level of congregational interest, with 50+ people attending. Working group forming to set path moving forward, with focus on October 27 TSWRJ program on reproductive justice.

## **REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Deborah Lewis confirmed report as submitted, highlighting three key projects for 2019-2020: renovation, leadership development, task force on future financial health of temple.

**Rabbi Report:** Rabbi Roos updated the Board on Temple Sinai's sponsored asylum family, highlighting the generosity of Temple members who have joined efforts to arrange for donated housing as well as help family transition again when current donation period ends. The family is likely to move closer to the French speaking African community in Langley Park for an even greater sense of community during their application period when they are not permitted to work and need extensive support from community. HAIS is conducting assessment of what is anticipated to be a complicated asylum case, for which they will be seeking legal representation.

**Executive Director's Report:** As submitted

**Meeting Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:55PM**

Respectfully submitted, Seth D. Speyer, Secretary