

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 18, 2019

Present: Ellen Agler, Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Jill Chenok, Laura Croen, Andrew Engel, Laurence Freedman, Nancy Golding, Hannah Goldstein, Cathy Goldwyn, Kenneth Jaffe, Nancy Lieberman, Deborah Lewis, Matthew Pachman, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Rebecca Robins, Jonathan Roos, Todd Rosentover, Adam Rosenwasser, Stephen Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Stephen Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Julius Weiss, Regina Ziegler

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

D'var Torah: Hannah Goldstein

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

July 2019 meeting minutes:

Unanimously approved with update of Reproductive Justice programming date to October 27, 2019.

September Membership report:

Motion to approved carried unanimously.

Financial Report: (Marcie Solomon)

Renovation and Expansion Task Force, chaired by David Antonelli met with four financial institutions to assess capital enhancement financing in the form of construction loan vs line of credit. Once the Task Force recommendations are ready a proposal will be made to the board.

Investment sub-committee chaired by Greg Weingast has recommended a shift of investment funds to Schwab to generate greater interest.

Investment sub-committee is looking for recommendations for individuals to serve on the committee to oversee and assess endowment management & fund allocation.

Long Term Financial Health Task Force begins meeting fall 2019 with goal of offering recommendations by spring 2020.

A question was raised about why a financial dashboard was not provided prior to the board meeting and Ellen Agler confirmed all is in order but work of the High Holiday season prevented dashboard prep prior to board meeting.

Capital Campaign (Naomi Camper and Andrew Engel)

Pledges to capital campaign exceed \$8.5 million.

Anticipate confirmation of \$500,000 matching commitment, which will bring total to \$9.5M when confirmed and matched

360 families have committed to capital campaign (out of membership 1226). Reminder provided that meetings with prospects lead to gifts, so there was encouragement to keep meeting pipeline active. Board members are strongly encouraged to open doors for meetings, which capital campaign committee members will conduct. All referrals are to be sent to chairs Camper & Engel.

Building plans to further progress with meeting week of September 23, 2019. On September 24, 2019 the Building and Grounds Committee will run through latest version of building plans in response to stakeholder input. On September 25, 2019 the Nursery and Religious School will review to ensure priorities met. Additional meetings will follow with constituents who requested updates on more concrete plans.

High Holy Day Campaign Outreach: High Holiday participants will be welcomed and messaging will take opportunity to make guests aware of spirit of campaign at Rosh Hashanah morning services.

Development (Ken Jaffe)

The Development Committee is working in collaboration with the Capital Campaign to discuss development, synergy of efforts, and how best to leverage the energy of the capital campaign committee to further engage highly productive volunteers as the campaign winds down.

The Committee is working in support of staff efforts to increase visibility of fundraising in the Temple Community.

Rimonim is an emphasis of Development Committee engagement, with an increase in communications about fundraising's impact on Temple programs.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS

Audited Financials (Dianne Rudo) – required vote postponed

Finance Committee & Staff supporting preparation of audit and collection of data for Capital Campaign bank financing.

Collecting revenue from member commitments and expenses in line with expectations.

High Holy Day Outreach (Larry Freedman)

Strong positivity in responses received.

Intention is for board outreach to be complete by 9/21.

Recommendation made to avoid outreach on Saturdays/Shabbat.

Laura Steel, Todd Rosentover, and Regina Ziegler have each completed assigned outreach and offered to help others.

Suggestion made that after Board outreach complete there be a debrief to discuss how to continue to improve program in future.

Multiracial Sinai Committee Report (Deitra Reiser and Cathy Goldwyn)

After 2 years of preparation the committee is doing a public launch, affirming TS as a multiracial temple and moving toward being an antiracist community.

Building Racial Stamina program begins after High Holidays with a focus on looking at how racial identities are treated in society, in Jewish community, and @ TS; with a sampler session to be held on September 22, 2019.

Rabbi Goldstein education series begins in January, 2020.

Multi Racial Sinai is a direct reponse URJ resolution to look into reform community practice.

Stephen Sacks encouraged Board members to embrace how Temple Sinai can feel proud for taking important steps as the URJ has been challenged nationally in moving the resolutions into congregations.

There was a reinforcement of the goal for Temple Sinai to be a leader in the space of antiracist dialogue, recognizing DC/MD have 12-15% Jews of color, which likely underestimates as demographers are imprecise in counting Jews of color. There is an expectation 25% of American Jewish community will identify as individuals of color in next 25 years.

Construction Loan (Andrew Engel)

Capital Campaign commitments are being fulfilled in the form of 5-year pledges but the capital enhancements necessitate loading expenses in first two years, requiring a bridge loan to cover cash flow.

In order to keep the cost/rate of the loan as low as possible while minimizing risk of using the synagogue as collateral 100% of undesignated funds raised in the Capital Campaign will be used for the renovation and expansion, with the Sustaining Fund (representing 20% of the campaign target) being fulfilled with

pledges specifically dedicated to the Sustaining Fund and undesignated legacy commitments. Operating in this manner is estimated to save in excess of \$300,000 in loan fees.

As a result of the above discussion, there was consensus of the Board that up to 100% of the undesignated funds in addition to the dedicated renovation and expansion funds will be used to fund the renovation and expansion project.

REPORTS

President's Report:

Deborah Lewis confirmed report as submitted.

Rabbi Report:

Rabbi Roos thanked the board for support for his sabbatical, sharing opportunities for growth exceeded expectations in first month.

He reminded board members they would be invited to participate in Torah blessing at all Rosh Hashanah morning services.

The Rabbi updated the board with regard to the Miele family, sharing the family's legal case was moving from pro bono to low bono legal support via the Asylum Seekers Assistance Project, noting no new budget would need to be approved as the added expense was being covered by a combination of a donor's support and funds from the Rabbi's discretionary fund. Asylum committee chair Glen Engelman will be monitoring legal contract and case progress

Executive Director's Report:

Ellen Agler confirmed report as submitted.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted, Seth D. Speyer, Secretary