

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – June 17, 2020

Present [meeting conducted virtually by Zoom]: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Dora Chen, Jill Chenok, Andrew Engel, Larry Freedman, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Kenneth Jaffe, Deborah Lewis, Tracy Mann, Mathew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Liz Rose, Stephen Sacks, Julie Schuman, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Rosenwasser, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Croen, Cantor-Educator Robins, Perri Silversmith, 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 7:34 p.m.

D’Var Torah: Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos delivered the D’var Torah.

NEW BOARD YEAR MATTERS:

- **New Board Year Matters:** There was an introduction of all board members, a discussion of new board matters, including calendaring, logistics, D’var Torah sign-ups, Board representatives at services, conflict of interest policy and forms for signature, background checks and board biographies for posting to the website.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the April 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – the May/June membership report was approved.
- **Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided an update regarding the status of closing the fiscal year books for 2019-2020. It is anticipated that there will be a gap between expenses and revenues although we presently do not know how much. Marcie also provided an overview of the fundraising report that shows an increase above member commitment by \$251,000, with total fundraising of \$2.1 million. To date, Capital Campaign pledges total \$9.8 million (with 43% participation by Temple member units).
- **Check signing authority resolution** –The resolution was approved (with four board members designated as signatories abstaining).
- **Task Force Updates:** Deborah Lewis provided an update regarding the Budget Task Force that is developing a budget for 2020-2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **COVID-19 Discussion:** There was a discussion of reopening precautions, High Holy Days and the status of Religious and Nursery School operations. Ellen Agler provided an overview of future Phase-1 re-opening in accordance with District of Columbia guidelines and advised that we are proceeding slowly and cautiously with planning to implement safety precautions. These include, among other precautions, health and wellness checks, CDC-enumerated safety practices, sign-ins, cleaning protocols, training and gradual reentry of “pioneers’ phase.” Planning includes possible gradual reopening of worship spaces with appropriate social distancing, masks, and a hybrid of virtual participation with the use of technology. Rabbi Roos provided an overview regarding planning for the High Holiday services, which will not occur physically in the Temple but will be ‘virtual.’ Planning is underway regarding logistics, to include a series of hybrid services with some parts pre-recorded and other parts that may be live. The clergy team is thinking about creative ways to re-invent the High Holiday worship experience to address the majesty of the holidays, engagement, spirituality and communality. Perry Silversmith provided an update regarding Nursery School operations, including research regarding new guidelines for future re-opening and creation of an appropriate developmental learning program. Cantor-Educator Robins provided an update about Religious School and Youth Program re-openings, the timings of which have not yet been decided.
- **Capital Campaign Update:** Naomi Camper and Andrew Engel provided an update regarding Capital Campaign planning, including an upcoming meeting with the core leadership to outline the contours for future activities. Renovation of the sanctuary will be proceeding with the replacement of the chairs.
- **Member Outreach:** Anita Stoll outlined a new initiative to reach out to all members during these challenging times. Anita is seeking volunteers for this important outreach.
- **Rabbi Transition:** Rabbi Roos shared the status of the Rabbi transition process, including Rabbi Diamondstein’s arrival and the formation of a transition committee to assist him. He officially starts on July 1, 2020, and is currently participating in planning and onboarding.

REPORTS:

- **President’s Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi’s Report** – was submitted orally. Rabbi Rosenwasser also spoke to the Board to say farewell. The Board expressed its appreciation for his years of service and profound contributions to Temple Sinai. Rabbi Roos also provided an update regarding the activities and leadership provided by the Multi-Racial Sinai Committee.
- **Executive Director’s Report** – as submitted.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary