

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – August 11, 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, Nancy Liebermann, Tracy Mann, Andrew Mannis, Matthew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Stephen Sacks, Julie Schuman, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Seth Speyer, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, Lisa Tucker, Julius Weiss, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Goldstein, Rabbi Diamondstein, Cantor-Educator Robins, Perri Iger-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: Rabbi Roos delivered the D’var Torah.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the July 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – consideration and approval of the August membership report were deferred until next month’s meeting. The Board materials included a report that provided an overview of membership trends, the impact of COVID on Temple membership, the risks of possible net reduction in members and member-engagement opportunities.
- **Budget and Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided an update regarding the status of the first month of the new fiscal year for 2020-2021, and we have seen an increase in member commitment revenues. The Budget Task Force will be meeting and Marcie will provide a report next month.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **High Holy Days Update:** Rabbi Roos provided an update regarding planning for the High Holiday services, which will not occur physically in the Temple but will be ‘virtual,’ perhaps with the possible exception of in-person shofar blowing. Rabbi Roos provided an overview of the new platform (produced by Ideas Unlimited, the ‘host vendor’) at www.sinai5781 and planning continues to re-invent the High Holiday worship experience to ensure the majesty of the holidays, engagement, spirituality and communality with parallel content areas and with the same goals of previous years. Board members are being encouraged to populate the platform’s welcome page.
- **2021 B’nei Mitzvah Task Force Report:** Rabbi Goldstein provided an update regarding the B’nei Mitzvah Task Force report, including the conducting of Zoom ceremonies and rescheduling of B’nei Mitzvah dates. According to the committee’s research, the families who have participated in Zoom ceremonies have found them extremely meaningful. Based on the committee’s analysis and looking at a variety of factors (including a comparison of the practices of other synagogues), the Task Force is

recommending: a) encouraging 2021 families to keep scheduled dates and to continue conducting ceremonies by Zoom; b) setting aside a few dates in 2022 for limited group services to be led by a small group of students together (perhaps 4 to 5 in number); c) offering a summer trip to Israel in 2022 for B'Nei Mitzvah families; and d) providing updated communications to the community with an emphasis on creative ideas about celebrating these wonderful milestones and being as supportive as possible for families.

REPORTS:

- No August reports were submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Personnel matters were discussed.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary