

## TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

July 15, 2020

**Present [meeting conducted virtually by Zoom]:** Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Dora Chen, Jill Chenok, Andrew Engel, Larry Freedman, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, John Hellerman, Kenneth Jaffe, Deborah Lewis, Nancy Liebermann, Matthew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Stephen Sacks, Julie Schuman, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, 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 7:33 p.m.

**Rabbi Noah Diamondstein:** We are pleased to welcome Rabbi Diamondstein, who provided words of greeting and a brief status regarding his transition and activities as our new Rabbi.

**D'Var Torah:** Lisa Tucker delivered the D'var Torah.

### **BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the June 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – the July membership report was approved.
- **Parsonage Resolution** – the Rabbi Noah Diamondstein Parsonage Resolution was approved with typographical correction.
- **Audit Report** – Deborah Lewis and Ellen Agler summarized the Audit Report dated May 18, 2020 (for fiscal year ending May 31, 2019). As required by the Bylaws, the Report was accepted upon vote by the Board.
- **Budget and Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided an update regarding the status of closing the fiscal year books for 2019-2020, reminding the Board that there is no budget in place but rather a continuing resolution. We are still facing significant uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we still anticipate that there will be a gap between expenses and revenues, although we presently do not know how much. However, based on recently available information, it appears that the gap will be smaller than previously projected. Steve Sacks also summarized the Budget Task Force's work, including attempts to make projections and considerations regarding developing a budget for 2020-2021 in light of the pandemic and the unprecedented situation. At this point, while forecasts are presently being devised, we cannot accurately predict future revenues, which are based predominantly on member commitments. Ellen Agler first reviewed the preliminary fiscal year 2019-2020 year-end projections including approximately \$300,000 in expected year end surplus (predominantly due to expense savings). Assumptions for a preliminary fiscal year 2020-2021 pro-forma budget were presented which has a projected shortfall of over \$200,000. The various considerations were discussed including short-term decisions that will need to be made, subject to

later revisions as more information becomes available. Ellen also discussed possible ways to close the operating gap. The Task Force will be making recommendations and a Board vote will occur upon submission of a budget.

## **UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:**

- **Capital Campaign Update:** Andrew Engel provided an update regarding Capital Campaign planning, including D.C. permitting for future construction activities and increasing awareness of the Sustaining Fund. Renovation of the sanctuary is proceeding with the replacement of the chairs. To date, Capital Campaign pledges total \$9.85 million. Andrew summarized a recent stewardship event and future plans. Rabbi Roos provided an update regarding short-term renovations, scheduling changes and the next steps.
- **Multi Racial Sinai Committee Update:** Deitra Reiser gave an update regarding recent activities and initiatives. The Committee has been hard at work with multiple programs and plans, including responding to recent important events, including the tragic death of George Floyd. Deitra outlined future activities, programming and areas for engagement.
- **Member Outreach:** Anita Stoll provided a status of the new and successful initiative to reach out to all members during these challenging times. Through her efforts, 65 volunteers have been recruited for this important outreach which hopefully will be completed this week.
- **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.’ Planning continues regarding logistics, to include the possibility of selecting a ‘host vendor’ for a series of services options with some parts pre-recorded and other parts that may be live. The clergy team is engaged in creative ways to re-invent the High Holiday worship experience to ensure the majesty of the holidays, engagement, spirituality and communality.
- **Temple Operations Update:** Ellen Agler provided an updated report regarding Temple Operations, including, among other precautions, health and wellness checks, CDC-enumerated safety practices, sign-ins, cleaning protocols, training and gradual reentry of “pioneers’ phase.” There was a discussion of our slow, cautious and limited reopening with safety precautions being done in coordination with the COVID-19 advisory group and with appropriate social distancing, masks, and related tools and technology.
- **Schools Update:** Perri Iger-Silversmith provided an update regarding Nursery School operations, including a committee tasked with surveying and researching future opening and precautions. Cantor-Educator Rebecca Robins provided an update about Religious School and Youth Program re-openings, which will likely be at least partially virtual, and the relevant considerations being used in the decision-making process.
- **Security Update:** Deborah Lewis gave a summary of security, including considerations for future security with a sensitivity to our anti-racist goals.
- **Social Action Update:** Rabbi Goldstein provided a summary of recent social action activities surrounding a Temple-supported campaign to ‘get out the vote’ and to fight voter suppression.

**REPORTS:**

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – was submitted orally. We also send condolences to Anita Stoll on the passing of her brother-in-law and to Diane Zimmerman on the passing of her grandson.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary