

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – November 18, 2020

Present [meeting conducted virtually by Zoom]: Naomi Camper, 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, Elizabeth Rose, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Michael Sussmann, Anita Stoll, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Diamondstein, Cantor Croen, Cantor-Educator Robins, Acting Director Ali Hurewitz, and Executive Director 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: Liz Rose delivered the D’var Torah.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the October 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – the November 2020 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided a summary of the financial report for fiscal year 2020-2021. On the revenue side: a) with respect to Member Financial Commitments, while we have only 91% of prior year collections at this time, collections are better than the projected 12% reduction from 2019-2020 actual, although there is a lot of uncertainty in this revenue category; b) regarding the Annual Fund, we are on track to meet or exceed the (lower) projection for this year provided that members fulfill their capital campaign pledges with annual fund designations. On the expense side, expenses have so far been maintained at no greater than 2019-2020 levels, except for an investment in the High Holy Day Sinai5781.com site and COVID severance payments. A one-week furlough for all full-time staff in November/December will reduce expenses by an additional \$48k. The projected Religious School/Youth budget was updated on October 20, 2020 to reflect actual enrollment with a bottom line projected temple investment of \$215k. Although Nursery School revenues are also down, a projected Nursery School budget was not included in the financial report. Ellen Agler discussed the process for reaching out to members who have made no member commitment payments or who have not submitted pledge forms. Temple Sinai is presently on target consistent with the previous expectations of the Budget Task Force, which provided guidance on contingency planning. Ellen Agler and Naomi Camper provided an update regarding the Temple’s preparation of an application requesting forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) loans and the general parameters and timeline for submission to the lender and ultimately to the Small Business Administration (“SBA”).
- **Capital Campaign report** – Naomi Camper and Andrew Engel gave an update regarding the Capital Campaign and, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is becoming more active. Temple Sinai is close to raising \$9.85 million, and Andrew discussed future targeted fundraising and the status of current

pledges, including celebrating Rabbi Roos' 10-year anniversary at Temple Sinai, and the future of possible building plans.

- **Development report** – Ken Jaffe provided an update regarding development efforts, greater than expected contributions, and the Annual Fund, which appears to be meeting our adjusted, conservative goal.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **COVID updates and reopening:** Deborah Lewis led the discussion regarding COVID updates and reopening. The COVID-19 Task Force met twice over the last month and the areas of focus were communications and providing regular updates to the congregation, Nursery School and Religious School reopening(s) for the Fall of 2021, and programs that can bring students and members on site in small groups now and activities that can be done safely in person. Ali Hurewitz discussed Nursery School planning, the D.C. Department of Health guidelines, school operations and support, possible programming, and budgeting considerations.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report, including reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic and a memorial prayer. He also gave an update regarding ritual-related matters, services, Torah Study participation, teaching opportunities at the Temple, Rabbi Diamondstein's transition, Ali Hurewitz's assumption of the Acting Director role of the Nursery School, and plans for celebrating the Confirmation Class of 2020 on the evening of December 17th. We are also very pleased and grateful that Andrea Dettelbach has agreed to assume a leadership role for the Membership Committee.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted. Ellen Agler highlighted that the Ingleside construction project is now completed and, as a result of governmental imposition of fines, Sinai House received a \$7,500 grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel and confidential matters were discussed in executive session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary