

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – October 21, 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, Kenneth Jaffe, Deborah Lewis, Andrew Mannes, Matthew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Stephen Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, 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 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.

D’Var Torah: Michael Sussmann delivered the D’var Torah.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the September 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report** – the October 2020 membership report was approved. Ellen Agler also summarized the recent membership trends and the net reduction in member commitments due to a variety of factors, trends that appear to be consistent with those of other synagogues.
- **Budget and Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided an update regarding the status of the first months of the fiscal year 2020-2021, including the year-to-date actuals. Temple Sinai is presently on target consistent with the previous expectations of the Budget Task Force. As expected, member commitment revenues are down by 12% and Nursery and Religious School revenues are also down. Ellen Agler advised that the Temple is in the process of preparing an application requesting forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) loans. At present, there are still too many financial uncertainties to formulate an accurate budget. The Finance Committee will be meeting later this week and it is keeping a close watch on temple finances each month. Marcie will provide a report next month.
- **Sustaining Fund Transfer Resolution**– Marcie Solomon and Andrew Engel provided a summary and intent of the Sustaining Fund Transfer Resolution, which was approved upon unanimous vote.
- **Capital Campaign report** – Andrew Engel gave an update regarding the Capital Campaign and, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee has not been particularly active recently. Building plans are currently pending before the D.C. government. The Capital Campaign Committee continues to evaluate the needs of the Temple going forward, the impact on our membership base, the anticipated demands for space, and the impact on the schools. Temple Sinai is close to raising \$10 million, and Andrew discussed future targeted fundraising and the status of current pledges.
- **Development report** – Ken Jaffee provided an update regarding development efforts, which is set forth in the Report, including significant voluntary fundraising support in connection with the High

Holy Days and social action efforts. Ken also discussed the status of the Annual Fund solicitations and pledges.

- **Housekeeping items** – Deborah Lewis led the discussion regarding several miscellaneous issues. In that regard, Temple Sinai will be providing regular updates to the congregation, reinvigorating the COVID Task Force to see what activities can be done safely in person and considering proposals from the Nursery and Religious schools. Deborah also discussed the replacement of the damaged sign with an updated Temple Sinai sign at the Military Road entrance.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **Update on the Nursery School:** Ali Hurewitz provided a detailed update regarding the Nursery School, including operations, expenses, enrollment, faculty, programming, future activities and communications with teachers.
- **High Holy Days Update:** Rabbi Roos provided an extended summary regarding the feedback on the High Holiday services, congregational reaction to the www.sinai5781 platform, the use of technology, the high level of participation and the general consensus that the High Holiday worship experience successfully captured the majesty of the holidays, engagement, spirituality and communality. The Ritual Committee is currently considering these issues. Lisa Tucker also advised that WRJ raised over \$30,000 for the Capital Area Food Bank as part of the High Holy Days fundraising.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report, including updates regarding the High Holy days. Congratulations to Rabbi Goldstein and her husband Josh on the birth of their daughter, Bella Miriam. Rabbi Roos also discussed that this is an important transition time in our community. We are also looking forward to Rabbi Diamondstein's installation service this coming Shabbat.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted.

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

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary