

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – July 20, 2022

Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]: Naomi Camper, Dora Chen, Ellen Croog, Glenn Engelmann, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Ken Jaffe, Dan Koch, Audrey Kramer, Deborah Lewis, Myron Marlin, Howard Oppenheim, Catherine Ribnick, Steve Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos, Cantor Educator Rebecca Robins and Executive Director Ellen Agler.

Call to order: With a quorum of the Board members present, the meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Temple Sinai President Marcie Solomon.

Welcome and D'var: Marcie Solomon gave opening remarks. She extended a warm welcome back to Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos, who recently returned from sabbatical, and Rabbi Roos delivered the D'var.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Intentions for the year:** There was an extended discussion by all individual Board members and members of the Senior Staff/Clergy team about our visions, hopes and intentions for the upcoming year in connection with our roles and responsibilities at the Temple.
- **Board Meeting minutes:** The June 2022 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The July 2022 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report:** Ken Jaffe presented a summary of the written 2021-2022 fiscal year-end Financial Report and the results are better than projected. Operating revenues exceeded operating expenses by \$1,029,674.2, and in accordance with Temple policy, amounts above \$10,000 will be transferred to the Surplus Fund. Most of the surplus was due to the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan, which was forgiven in full, additional grants and cost savings.

Ken explained that revenues were close to the budgeted totals. Membership commitment revenue was slightly above budget and Annual Fund contributions were well above budget. Per the written report, expenses were 12% below budget, largely due to lower building usage and reduced costs. Of the \$100,000 budgeted as a contingency for unexpected COVID-related expenses, only \$28,798 was spent. Both the Religious School and the Nursery School had lower expenses and lower tuition revenues than budgeted, due to reduced enrollment.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **High Holidays:** Rabbi Roos provided a summary of the planning for the upcoming High Holidays, including services and programs to celebrate the grandeur of the religious experience, to elevate engagement and to encourage and strengthen our sense of community.
- **High Holiday Member Outreach:** Gina Ziegler and Marcie Solomon discussed plans for Board outreach to Temple Sinai members around the High Holidays, a 14-year+ tradition. The plan includes telephone calls to certain members (without email access) and email outreach to the majority of the membership. Gina discussed the anticipated changes in this year's outreach program.
- **Renovation and Expansion:** Ken Jaffe provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion, including the ceremonial ground-breaking, the installation of fencing lines, the reconfiguration of the playground area(s) and expected upcoming activities.
- **Capital Campaign:** Naomi Camper summarized the continuing fundraising outreach, the favorable responses from congregants, the ongoing work on celebratory events and the progress being made towards achieving our financial goals for the Campaign.
- **Art Committee:** Marcie Solomon reported that the Temple is reinvigorating the Art Committee in view of the planned renovation of the building and inside spaces. She is presently working on populating the committee.
- **Cantor Succession:** Marcie Solomon and Rabbi Roos outlined the current status of our search for a new Cantor in view of Senior Cantor Croen's announced retirement. Marcie discussed the survey results aimed at soliciting member input and preferences, and outlined the future formulation of focus groups to help inform the search committee, which will be chaired by Anita Stoll.
- **Growing the Membership Task Force:** Michael Sussmann provided a summary of the work of the Task Force, which is now entering a more active phase. After a series of meetings, the Task Force is prioritizing four areas of focus for initial attention and will be examining: 1) the Temple's dues structure, types of memberships, and other financial options; 2) engagement of Nursery School and families with young children; 3) membership retention; and 4) growth models, including those used by the URJ and other congregations. Michael indicated that, hopefully in the Fall, the Task Force will be providing recommendations as to ways to implement a variety of ideas in a more formalized fashion.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report. He has recently returned from sabbatical and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to study, write and travel.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted.

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

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary