

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – September 21, 2022

Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Ellen Croog, Glenn Engelmann, Larry Freedman, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Ken Jaffe, Dan Koch, Audrey Kramer, Ariel Levinson-Waldman, Deborah Lewis, Andrew Ludwin, Myron Marlin, Howard Oppenheim, Jonah Perlin, Steve Sacks, Seth Speyer, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos, Director of Early Childhood Education Ali Hurewitz, 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.

D’var Torah: Anita Stoll delivered the D’var.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes:** The July 2022 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The August/September 2022 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report:** Ken Jaffe presented a summary of the written Year-to-Date Financial Summary (as of 08/31/2022) for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. At this early point, we are basically on budget and a comparison of the Actual Year-to-Date and Budget Year-to-Date figures reveals that income is at 98% of budget and expenses are at 93% of budget. According to the written report, “other income” is higher than projected due to higher investment income and also the online payment processing fees, which are offset by expenses in the Administration line. Expenses generally are running slightly below budget thus far, but this may be due to the timing of the High Holy Days, which fall later in the year.
- **Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition Resolution:** The Green Team Co-Chair Liz Feldman outlined the future activities for the coming year. She also presented a proposal that Temple Sinai join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations that develop Climate Action Plans for the strategic priorities of an organization. The Coalition is organized by Hazon a non-profit organization launched in 2014. A number of Jewish organizations, including the URJ and the Jewish Federation of North America have joined the Coalition. As a member, Temple Sinai would commit to: a) signing the Coalition Founding Statement; b) designating a staff liaison to coordinate our climate action work; and c) developing, implementing, evaluating, and sharing our organizational Climate Action Plan annually. A Climate Action Plan will detail climate actions taken to-date and sets goal for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the coming year. The Green Team proposes that Rabbi Goldstein would serve as the clergy liaison under the auspices of the Davis Center. Upon motion and vote, an Amended Resolution (in a form substantively the same as the attached) was adopted whereby the Board approves the proposal that the Temple join

the Coalition and designates the Senior Rabbi to appoint the clergy liaison for that purpose.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS:

- **High Holidays:** Rabbi Roos provided an update regarding the planning for the upcoming High Holidays, including services and programs. We have a robust schedule that returns us mostly to the service plans used in 2019, and the Temple is offering live streaming from all service locations using Zoom and Boxcast (with backup plans in place in case of technological glitches and/or last minute changes). The clergy has focused on plans for the in-person experience in the Sanctuary, Bet Am, and at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School. We expect a large turnout in person.
- **High Holiday Member Outreach:** Gina Ziegler discussed plans for Board outreach to Temple Sinai members around the High Holidays. The plan includes telephone calls to certain members (without email access) and email outreach to the majority of the membership. Gina discussed the changes in this year's outreach program.
- **Renovation and Expansion:** Ken Jaffe provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion. We are now entering the demolition phase, which involves restricted activities during school hours to try to minimize the impact on Nursery School activities. The next steps will involve removal of the stair tower, shoring up the roof and laying a concrete foundation for the new addition. Ken advises that the project is currently on track to be completed by the Fall of 2023.
- **Capital Campaign:** Ellen Agler gave a brief report about anticipated fundraising outreach, including an information table for congregants during the High Holy Days
- **Cantor Search:** Anita Stoll, Chair of the Cantor Search Committee outlined the current status of our search for a new Cantor in view of Senior Cantor Croen's announced retirement. The Cantor search process will start in earnest after the High Holy Days and will be a top priority for this coming year. We will be posting our job listing with the American Conference of Cantors very soon and expect to start receiving applications in October.
- **Multiracial Sinai:** Cathy Goldwyn provided a summary of the work of the Task Force, which is now entering a more active phase. Planned activities include a Racial Equity Project Stakeholders Gathering on December 11, 2022, staff training on December 12, 2022, and another series of sessions on Building Racial Stamina starting in January 2023.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – as submitted. Rabbi Roos and Director of Early Childhood Education Ali Hurewitz also summarized the very positive changes taking place in the Nursery School.

We also extend a Mazel tov to Michael Sussmann on the recent bar mitzvah of his son, Paul, and our heartfelt condolences to Cantor Rebecca Robins and her family on the

death of her sister-in-law, Melinda Robins, to Jean Veta and her family on the death of her cousin, Sebastian Graber, and to Jonah Perlin and his family on the death of his mother-in-law, Rosyln Eichenbaum. We also wish a speedy recovery to Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner.

- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted. Ellen Agler also wanted to specifically acknowledge the Temple's amazing staff that has been working very hard in anticipation of the upcoming Holidays.

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

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary

Resolution that Temple Sinai Join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition
September 21, 2022
(Amended)

Whereas, the co-chairs of the Green Team have requested that Temple Sinai join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations that develop Climate Action Plans to outline the strategic priorities of an organization’s climate work, and to set goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the coming year.

Whereas, the Coalition is being organized by Hazon, a non-profit organization launched in 2014 with the goal of “leading a transformative movement weaving sustainability into the fabric of Jewish life, in order to create a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable world for all.” A number of Jewish organizations including the URJ and the Jewish Federation of North America have joined the Coalition.

Whereas, as a member of the Coalition, the Temple would: sign the Coalition Founding Statement; designate a staff liaison to coordinate our climate action work; develop, implement, evaluate, and share our organizational Climate Action Plan annually.

Whereas, it is proposed that Temple Sinai join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposal that Temple Sinai join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Senior Rabbi is authorized to appoint a clergy liaison for this purpose.