

**TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – October 19, 2022**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Personnel and confidential matters were discussed in executive session before the meeting was called to order.

**Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]:** Naomi Camper, Dora Chen, Ellen Croog, Glenn Engelmann, Larry Freedman, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Ken Jaffe, Dan Koch, Ariel Levinson-Waldman, Deborah Lewis, Myron Marlin, Howard Oppenheim, Jonah Perlin, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Steve Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Michael Sussmann, Regina Ziegler, Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos, Rabbi Hannah Goldstein, Rabbi Noah Diamondstein, Cantor Laura Croen, 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 7:48 p.m. by Temple Sinai President Marcie Solomon.

**Motion:** On Motion, the Board unanimously approves the terms of a 14 year contract with Rabbi Roos commencing June 1, 2023, on the terms that have been described to the Board; the Board authorizes the President to enter into a contract with Rabbi Roos containing those terms provided that the contract will explicitly state that, pursuant to the congregation’s Bylaws, the congregation at an annual or special meeting must approve the contract; the Board unanimously recommends that the Congregation approve entering into the contract; and that, pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws, the Board directs the President to convene a Special Meeting of the congregation to consider approving the contracts with both Rabbi Roos and Rabbi Diamondstein.

**D’var Torah:** Deitra Reiser delivered the D’var.

**BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Board Meeting minutes:** The September 2022 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The October 2022 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report:** Ken Jaffe presented a summary of the written Year-to-Date Financial Summary (as of 09/30/2022) for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. At this early point, we are basically on budget in most categories. A comparison of the Actual Year-to-Date and Budget Year-to-Date figures in the written report reveals that income is at 97% of budget and expenses are at 95% of budget. We do not project significant variances to the budget at this time. According to the written report, member commitment income is slightly lower than the budget projection through September and “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. We will also be watching the income and expense figures from the Nursery School and Religious School.

### **UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS:**

- **High Holidays:** Rabbi Roos, Ellen Agler and the clergy team provided feedback regarding the High Holy Days, including last minute modifications to services and programs due to the COVID-related illness of two clergy team members. We had a robust schedule and for the first time since 2019, we offered in-person services at both the Temple and at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School. All of our services were also available via live stream and recordings. In person attendance was not as high as pre-pandemic years, but far exceeded last year. The ticketed vs. livestreaming attendance data by service location are included in the Executive Director's Report. There were 850 guest tickets requested evenly divided between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Instead of charging for guest tickets, we invited donations and received over \$10,000 in ticket revenue. High Holiday Fundraising revenue was comparable to last year, with approximately \$50,000 donated in total for the various giving opportunities including; High Holiday Support Fund, Yizkor Book, Flower Dedications and Memorial Plaques. We appreciate all of our generous donors who helped support the holidays this year and are grateful to the clergy and staff for all of their hard work and resilience.
- **Staff Appreciation:** Marcie Solomon will be sending an email outlining how the Board would like to show its appreciation to Temple staff.
- **Renovation and Expansion:** Ken Jaffe provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion. We have now finished the demolition phase and, in the next week or two, we will be entering the construction phase, including laying a concrete foundation for the new addition. Our contractor will continue to modify work during school hours to try to minimize the impact on Nursery School activities. Ken advises that the project is still on track to be completed by the Fall of 2023.
- **Capital Campaign:** Naomi Camper gave a report about anticipated fundraising outreach, including an information table for congregants during the High Holy Days. Activities will soon be underway to again raise the visibility of the Campaign, including additional information sessions and outreach. She also invited interested persons to volunteer in Campaign fundraising efforts.
- **Cantor Search:** Rabbi Roos and Marcie Solomon provided an update regarding the work of the Cantor Search Committee. The search process is now entering an active phase with the posting of our job listing with the American Conference of Cantors and the receipt of several applications already in early October. The Committee will be meeting later in October to discuss next steps, including initial candidate interviews (that are likely to be conducted by Zoom).

### **REPORTS:**

- **President's Report** – as submitted.

- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – as submitted. Rabbi Roos also provided an oral report regarding the High Holy Days.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted. Ellen Agler also wanted to specifically acknowledge the Temple's amazing staff that worked extremely hard during the holidays.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary