

**TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – December 21, 2022**

**Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]:** Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Ellen Croog, Glenn Engelmann, Larry Freedman, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Dan Koch, Audrey Kramer, Deborah Lewis, Myron Marlin, Howard Oppenheim, Jonah Perlin, Catherine Ribnick, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Noah Diamondstein, and Executive Director Ellen Agler.

**Call to order:** With a quorum of the Board members present, the meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Temple Sinai President Marcie Solomon.

**D’var Torah:** Glenn Engelmann delivered the D’var.

**BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Board Meeting minutes:** The November 2022 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The November 2022 Membership Report was approved.
- **Financial report:** Ellen Agler presented a summary of the written Year-to-Date Financial Summary for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and advised that we are basically on budget. According to the written report, a comparison of the Actual Year-to-Date and Budget Year-to-Date figures reveals that income is on budget and expenses are at 94% of budget. Member commitment income is very close to the budget projection, but the pace of collections is slightly behind last year’s. Investment income (interest earned on our cash reserves) is much higher than budgeted due to increased interest rates. “Other income” is higher than projected due to online payment processing fees, which are offset by expenses in the Administration line. Due to lower-than-projected enrollments, Nursery School tuition revenue is trending below budget, offset partially but not completely by reduced expenses. Ellen also advised that security costs are higher because more in-person activities are occurring in the building and that the Finance Committee is in the process of preparing next year’s budget along with a multi-year financial forecast.
- **Audit Committee Report:** Barry Wides, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented a summary of the Temple’s Audited Financial Statement (for the year ended May 31, 2022). The Committee recommends adoption of the Audited Financial Statement (a copy of which is included in the Dropbox), which was approved by the Board.
- **High Holiday Member Outreach Report:** Regina Zeigler summarized the results of the Board outreach to Temple Sinai members around the High Holidays, which included telephone calls to certain members and email outreach to the majority of the membership. Regina’s report outlines the statistics regarding completed phone calls,

and follow-up emails. She also summarized the congregational response and recommendations for future outreach efforts, which will be addressed by the Board in future meetings.

- **Israel Committee:** Bob Snyder presented an overview of the proposed Temple Sinai Israel Committee for Social Justice, which will seek to engage members of the congregation to advocate on behalf of civil, social, and economic rights and policies as they apply to Israel. Several board members expressed the view that they did not endorse all of the language of the Mission Statement, as drafted. After a lengthy discussion, on motion, the Board approved the formation of the Israel Committee for Social Justice (with 5 board members abstaining).

#### **UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS:**

- **Renovation and Expansion:** Ellen Agler provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion. The construction is making good progress. The foundation for the new expansion is being poured. Completion of this phase has been delayed due to reworking some of the footers and plans are to review the rest of the construction schedule to schedule some work in parallel in order to make-up time. Next steps to include structural steel to support the new addition are anticipated to begin later in January. An enhanced playground design has been completed and there have been multiple oversight meetings. The contract with our general contractor Scott-Long Construction Inc. has been finalized and builders' risk insurance is in place. Ellen referred people to the weekly email and web site for construction updates with photos.
- **Capital Campaign:** Naomi Camper gave an updated report about fundraising. Activities are continuing to raise the visibility of the Campaign and targeted member outreach around Rabbi Roos' contract renewal has generated a very generous \$250,000 lead gift to the Sustaining Fund, which hopefully will encourage additional giving. Naomi also announced that we have achieved full Board participation in the Campaign.
- **Cantor Search:** Anita Stoll provided an update regarding the exciting work of the Cantor Search Committee. The Committee has been conducting initial candidate interviews (by Zoom) and has invited four candidates for an in-person visit to the Temple for an audition and interview(s). Anita is hopeful that the Committee will complete its work and be in a position to make a recommendation within the next few weeks.
- **Art and Design Committee:** A discussion of the mission and core values of the Art and Design Committee was postponed until next month's Board Meeting. Members of the Art & Design Committee are expected to meet in early January 2023.
- **Activating Racial Equity:** Outgoing founding Co-Chair Cathy Goldwyn and incoming Co-Chair Steve Metalitz discussed the recent working session on Activating Racial Equity held on December 11, 2022 and the half-day senior staff session on December 12, 2022.

Gamal Palmer is a consultant who led the work. Sixty-one people attended, including 22 members of the Board. The Committee is now planning meaningful follow-up and the Board extends its sincere and profound gratitude to outgoing Co-Chairs Deitra Reiser and Cathy Goldwyn who have done a truly impressive job advancing Temple Sinai as an anti-racist synagogue. They have also handled the transition to a new set of Co-Chairs, Dora Chen and Steve Metalitz, who are poised to take the helm in January 2023, in a very thoughtful, inclusive way. Upcoming Multi-Racial Sinai Committee activities presently include another series of sessions on Building Racial Stamina starting on January 18, 2023.

**REPORTS:**

- **President's Report** – as submitted. In addition, Marcie Solomon advised that the Nominating Committee, chaired by the immediate-Past President Deborah Lewis, will begin its work in 2023.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – as submitted
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary