

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – February 15, 2023

Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Glenn Engelmann, Larry Freedman, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Ken Jaffe, Dan Koch, Ariel Levinson-Waldman, Deborah Lewis, Andrew Ludwin, Myron Marlin, Howard Oppenheim, Jonah Perlin, Debbie Rappaport, Catherine Ribnick, Steve Sacks, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Michael Sussmann, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Senior Rabbi Jonathan Roos, Rabbi Noah Diamondstein, Director of Early Childhood Education Ali Hurewitz, Finance Manager Andrei Israel 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: Rabbi Roos delivered the D’var.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes:** The January 2023 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The January 2023 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report:** Ken Jaffe presented a summary of the written Year-to-Date Financial Summary (as of 1/31/2023) for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and advised that the current projection is for a year-end favorable variance to budget of \$18,488. If this holds, the Surplus Fund transfer can be slightly reduced, but would still be approximately \$400,000. Member commitment income is behind last year’s collections and we are tentatively projecting a 2% shortfall. Tuition revenues from both the Religious School and the Nursery School also are projected to come in below budget. On the other hand, investment Income (interest earned on our cash reserves) and Annual Fund receipts are higher than budgeted. Expenses are generally in line with budget with the exception of security, which is higher due to higher levels of activity in the building this year, and expenses for the Nursery School and Religious School, which have been reduced to address the tuition shortfalls noted above. The Finance Committee is also continuing to work with the clergy and senior staff on cost-saving measures aimed at decreasing future transfers from the Surplus Fund.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS:

- **Nursery School Update:** Director of Early Childhood Education Ali Hurewitz gave an update regarding Nursery School operations, including the high level of engagement. She discussed current and projected enrollment, recent re-accreditation by NAYEC, staffing, the new outdoor classroom, plans for future educational opportunities, faculty

professional development, parent education and ongoing partnerships with area specialists. Ali described several challenges and opportunities related to the impact of the COVID pandemic and the ongoing construction, including initiatives designed to increase enrollment and revenues. She also outlined several future plans and initiatives centered around applying for a new grant and fundraising.

- **Israel Committee:** Rabbi Roos and Bob Snyder presented an overview of the revised Mission Statement for proposed Temple Sinai Israel Committee for Israel Engagement and Social Justice. There was extensive discussion about the revisions, the feedback received from multiple sources leading to the amendments to the proposed Mission Statement, and how the principles compare to the positions taken by other organizations. The objectives of the Committee are to advocate on behalf of civil, social, and economic rights and policies as they apply to Israel. Rabbi Roos explained that the Mission Statement provides structure for the anticipated focus and activities of the newly constituted Committee. Upon motion, the Board voted to adopt the attached Mission Statement (revised 1/20/23) as amended.
- **Renovation and Expansion:** Naomi Camper provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion. Naomi advises that the project is still on track to be completed by the Fall of 2023 and is currently on budget.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report, highlighting the following: 1) heartfelt condolences to Dan Koch on the recent passing of his mother; 2) congratulations to Glenn and Michelle Englemann on the engagement of their son; 3) the transition of incoming Cantor Rachel Rhodes; 4) future plans to celebrate and honor Rabbi Goldstein on her 10th anniversary at Temple Sinai; 5) the upcoming four events planned in celebration of Cantor Laura Croen, who will be retiring in June; 6) the upcoming Kehillat Shabbat Service this Friday observing Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Shabbat at which Dan Koch will be the guest speaker; and 7) an update from Rabbi Noah Diamondstein who is leading the efforts in connection with the Antisemitism Response Group.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted. We also extend our congratulations to Wendell “Guy” Waynes, who is retiring from his position with our facilities team at the end of this month, after 15 years of service to our temple community. We wish him all the best.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary

