

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING –July 19, 2023

Present [meeting conducted in person and on Zoom]: Naomi Camper, Glenn Engelmann, Larry Freedman, Cathy Goldwyn, Sally Greenberg, Cara Jablon, Ken Jaffe, Katie Joselow, Dan Koch, Laura Kolton, Myron Marlin, Anthony Murphy, Howard Oppenheim, Catherine Ribnick, Sara Rosenblum, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, D. Jean Veta, Senior Cantor Rachel Rhodes, Cantor Educator Rebecca Robins, Executive Director Ellen Agler, and Director of Early Childhood Education Ali Hurewitz.

Call to order: With a quorum of the Board members present, the meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Temple Sinai President Ken Jaffe.

Shehecheyanu Blessing Welcoming Cantor Rhodes and D’var Torah: Ken Jaffe recited a Shehecheyanu blessing in honor of our new Senior Cantor, Rachel Rhodes, and said a few words about the prayer and how we have reason to celebrate special occasions – in this case a new member of our clergy team. Cantor Rhodes delivered the D’var Torah.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes:** The June 2023 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership report:** The June 2023 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report:** EVP and Chair of the Finance Committee, Glenn Engelmann, presented a summary of the written preliminary fiscal year-end financial report (June 1, 2022-May 31, 2023). The results are very positive, with year-end performance better than both the budget and the year-end projection completed in April. Based on a number of factors, we have a year-end surplus and therefore no surplus funds needed to be tapped to achieve our break-even budget.

After a slow start, member commitment revenue ended up exceeding budget by 2%. Due to higher interest rates and improved treasury management, investment income far exceeded the budget. In addition, “Other Income” and “Other Expense” are both higher than budgeted due to programs funded outside of the operating budget, such as the Civil Rights trip and fundraising in connection with the celebrations of Cantor Croen’s retirement and essentially offset one another. Due to lower enrollment, Nursery School income was lower than budgeted; expenses were significantly lower as well, but not as much. Regarding this fiscal year, we have already collected over \$880,000 in membership dues, which is twice that collected as of this time last year.

Glenn also outlined two significant future financial challenges that lay ahead. First, we are anticipating that there will be a gap between both Nursery and Religious School income and operating costs. Second, the Temple will likely be taking on debt service

payments in connection with a loan for the renovation project to the extent there is a gap in Capital Campaign financing. At present, we are engaged in discussions with two banks to secure financing. Glenn noted that the Finance Committee has begun work on a multi-year financial forecast to support future budgeting decisions.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **High Holidays Preview:** Senior Cantor Rachel Rhodes and Ellen Agler gave a preview of the upcoming services and activities for the High Holidays. They summarized the schedule and locations of services, which are available on the website. Ken Jaffe also strongly encouraged board members to serve as ushers and High Holiday service participants.
- **Renovation and Expansion:** Ken Jaffe provided an update on the Temple's renovation and expansion. Significant progress has been made on the South Addition construction project. The exterior brickwork is now complete. The addition is getting closed-in, and drywall will be going up soon. Exterior excavation is underway for development of the storm water management infrastructure and creation of the new south plaza. Planning for the enhanced playground landscaping is also underway.

Ken advised that the timeline for substantial completion is expected to extend into mid-October, and perhaps more realistically into November 2023. Supply chain delays have continued to push back the project's progress. Ellen Agler explained that contingency plans will be in place to ensure building safety, security, access and use until the new spaces are fully completed. The "secondary" entrance from the parking lot will be available for use by Labor Day to support access of students to the Nursery School and for the High Holidays. Ellen also discussed the re-purposing of internal spaces and classrooms. We are excited to be planning to celebrate the opening of the new building and playground and a grand opening celebration is presently scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2023. The latest construction progress is available on the Temple's website.

- **Capital Campaign:** Naomi Camper gave an updated report about fundraising, including recent events to raise the visibility of the Campaign. The Temple has recently received two significant and generous cornerstone gifts of \$250,000 and \$100,000, which has helped raise a total of almost \$11.5 million to date. A recent fundraising event held on June 11, 2023 generated tremendous excitement and increased pledges. The Campaign is continuing to engage in cultivation of member participation.
- **High Holiday Member Outreach:** Ken Jaffe outlined the plans for this year's High Holiday member outreach, which will be a hybrid outreach to be done by board members by telephoning certain members and by emailing other members, with outreach to be completed by Yom Kippur. Our appreciation is extended to Dan Koch, who has agreed to coordinate this effort.

REPORTS:

- **President's Report** – submitted orally. Ken emphasized that the summer is a busy time at the Temple on several fronts, including ongoing South Addition construction, the transition of Cantor Rhodes and High Holy Day planning. Ken reminded board members to update their bios and headshots on the Temple Sinai website. He also reiterated that this was a great year financially, thanks in large measure to the Temple clergy and staff, and the continued support and generosity of our members. However, Ken also reminded the board that we are not yet 'out of the woods' financially, and that there will be several difficult decisions to be made in the relatively near future.
- **Senior Rabbi's Report** – as submitted.
- **Executive Director's Report** – as submitted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Congratulations and Mazel Tov to Rabbi Noah Diamondstein and his wife Marnie on the birth of their daughter Sydney. The Board also extends its best wishes to Robin Berry, our bookkeeper, who will be retiring at the end of October, after 16 years of service to the Temple. Congratulations to Noah Benjamin on his promotion to Director of Development and a warm welcome to Helena Goldstein, our new Clergy Assistant.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary