

MINUTES
Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019; 11 Sh'vat 5779

Board Members Present

Jon Braslaw, Liz Daoust, Matti Fromson, Calvin Gibbs, Diane Grauer, Melissa Heller, Neil Jacobson, Sara Klein, Josh Kuluva, Maya Levi, Laurie Lieber, Jim Manheimer, Susan Rosenthal, Frances Rotolo, Bart Schenone, Anne Schmitz, Debra Schoenberg, Andrew Shear, Karen Tanner, Joan Waranoff, Phil Witte, Erik Zwerling

Absent

Megan Bacigalupi, Richard Hart, Sydney Schimmel

Staff Present

Dorian Farrow, Cantor Keys, Ellen Lefkowitz

7:00 Call to Order

7:05 D'var Torah – Jon Braslaw

7:18 Update on Sabbatical from Ellen Lefkowitz

- Ellen thanked the board for her sabbatical and provided a summary of what she learned as well as ideas she plans to implement at the preschool.

7:27 Approval of December 2018 Board meeting Minutes

Karen Tanner moved to approve the minutes, Joan Waranoff seconded. All approved.

7:28 Consent Calendar:

Membership Report

Section 125 Cafeteria Plan

Parsonages: Sara Klein read the 2019 parsonage requests from Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Rabbi Regev and Cantor Keys

All approved the Consent Calendar.

7:30 Finance, Membership and Annual Giving Update – Dorian Farrow/Jon Braslaw

- We are continuing to perform well against the budget in terms of expenses; revenue still strong as well.
- Our loan amount is now below \$2 million (\$1.9M). The finance committee estimates that when all Yesod pledges are collected, our loan will be right around \$1 million.
- Annual giving has raised over \$50K and we should end up around \$60K for the year. An anonymous donor has given an additional \$50K gift for unrestricted use.
- The Jewish Community Foundation met with the finance committee recently to discuss investment practices and strategies.

7:45 Security Update and Proposal – Dorian Farrow/Sara Klein/Jon Braslaw

- We have started the bidding process for different security projects; we may have donors who will help us cover these costs.
- In the past month, staff have worked to streamline the key fob system.
- The board approved \$150K to be utilized for security-related projects.

Bart Schenone moved to approve the funding request, Andrew Shear seconded. All approved.

7:55 Board priorities for 2019 – Sara Klein

- Some priorities for this year: (1) figuring out how to better connect congregants in our community, (2) development, (3) leadership development, (4) strategic planning.
- Neil Jacobson volunteered to assist with community connection.
- Our bylaws require us to have a development committee; the committee chairperson should have many strong ties within our community. Contact Sara if you know anyone who might be interested in spearheading this committee.
- Leading with Jewish Values will start with a new cohort in October 2019. Molly Rosen and Rona Bar-Din will again be running the program.
- We need an updated strategic plan (as the last plan was created in the early 2000s). The work of the Strategic Visioning Task Force will inform the strategic planning process.
- The board felt the congregation could use a refresher on the Member Portal.

8:16 Legacy Program – Phil Witte

- The Legacy Program is an endowment fund managed by the Jewish Federation of the East Bay. Congregants name Temple Sinai as a beneficiary in their wills and trusts, and the temple receives the income stream in the future.
- There is a two-step process to donate: first, a commitment form is given to Dorian, then one needs to include Temple Sinai in his/her estate, wills, trust, etc.
- The board recognized Debra Schoenberg and her commitment to the program.

8:26 Executive Session

8:45 Adjourn

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

February 20

March 27 (note, fourth Wednesday not third)

April 17

May 15

June 19