

MINUTES
Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2019; 17 Tishrei 5780

Board Members Present

Jon Braslaw, Becky Chase, Liz Daoust, Matti Fromson, Melissa Heller, Neil Jacobson, Jim Manheimer, Susan Rosenthal, Sydney Schimmel, Anne Schmitz, Andrew Shear, Joan Waranoff, Phil Witte, Erik Zwerling

Board Members Absent

Calvin Gibbs, Richard Hart, Sara Klein, Josh Kuluva, Laurie Leiber, Frances Rotolo, Bart Schenone, Debra Schoenberg, Karen Tanner

Staff Present

Terrie Goren, Cantor Keys, Ellen Lefkowitz, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Rabbi Regev

7:08 Call to Order

7:15 Approval of September 2019 Board meeting minutes

Joan Waranoff moved to approve the minutes, Jim Manheimer seconded. All approved.

7:17 Consent Calendar:
Membership Report

All approved the Consent Calendar.

7:20 Membership Update – Terrie Goren

- 94 percent of membership recommitments are in (913 families plus 23 honorary). Follow up calls and letters will be sent this week to the 54 who have yet to renew.
- Terrie will work on a survey for families who did not renew and staff will contact them to gain more information about their decisions.

7:25 Finance Update and Proposed Budget Amendment – Sydney Schimmel and Terrie Goren

- Cemetery transaction closed on 9/30/19. There have still been some outstanding costs the past few months, but those will now phase out. The pension liability will still be paid for the year (which was already included in the budget).
- Budget revision: the wages component is basically the same as what the board already approved. The finance team has added the fundraising activities for the Cantor's anniversary celebration. The calculations for retirements were around \$40K too low. Total: Income adjustments are \$65K, Expense adjustments are \$100K so there is a net impact of \$35K to the previously approved budget.

Andrew Shear moved to approve budget amendments, Erik Zwerling seconded. All approved.

7:37 High Holy Day Debrief - Rabbi Mates-Muchin and Terrie Goren

- Smooth High Holy Day celebrations. Positive comments on the new prayer books. Mostly positive reactions to the OPD police presence. We were much more organized in terms of checking tickets, bags, etc. for Yom Kippur.
- We may need to rethink the bag check process for next year- who should do the task, where, etc.

- It will be useful to reestablish the security task force, especially so the group can think about the High Holy Days and a plan for next year.
- Paramount attendance: 842 at Erev Rosh Hashanah, 1378 at Kol Nidrei.
- Asking congregants for feedback re: High Holy Days would be useful; Jon and Terrie will coordinate on this effort and link it to the larger issue of temple participation and strategic planning.

8:00 High Holy Day Calls Check-In – Jon Braslaw

- Positive reactions from congregants who were called, although some seemed confused about the reason for the call.
- Some phone numbers in the database appear to be business phone numbers.
- It would be useful to add “preferred method of contact” to the membership renewal form.

8:15 Board Retreat – Jon Braslaw

- Sunday, December 8 from 9 AM until 1 PM at the Wilder Ranch House in Orinda. The board will discuss strategic planning, Shema and V’ahavta statements, board engagement/roles, and finances/board oversight.

8:18 Gratitude and Farewell to Matti Fromson

- Words from Sara and Jon

8:34 Adjourn

Upcoming Board Meeting and other Dates:

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

BOARD INSTALLATION SHABBAT – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15

BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20

BOARD RETREAT/DECEMBER MEETING - SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15

BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19

BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY MARCH 18