

MINUTES
Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:00pm

Board members present: Jon Braslaw, Liz Daoust, Laurel Ettinger, Calvin Gibbs, Ann Gordon, Melissa Heller, Neil Jacobson, Josh Kuluva, Laurie Leiber, Jim Manheimer, Susan Rosenthal, Frances Rotolo, Bart Schenone, Sydney Schimmel, Anne Schmitz, Andrew Shear, Karen Tanner, Karen Tiedemann, Michelle van Tijen, Joan Waranoff, Phil Witte, Erik Zwerling

Absent: Becky Chase, Richard Hart

Clergy and Staff present: Stephanie Ben-Simon, Terrie Goren, Cantor Keyes, Ellen Lefkowitz, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Rabbi Regev

7:00pm: Call to order and Icebreaker

7:07pm: Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2020

Move to approve Bart Schenone; Second Sydney Schimmel; Unanimous board approval.

The board welcomed Laurel Ettinger as a new board member – Laurel has an impressive track record of community involve at Temple Sinai.

Everyone wished Andrew Shear a Happy Birthday

7:10pm: Update on vandalism

Andrew Shear reported that a suspect, Freddie Lee Smith (aka Zacharay Running Wolf) has been arrested. Mr Smith has a long list of misdemeanor arrests in Berkeley, mostly for vandalism. He has been charged with three counts of felony vandalism (with a hate crime enhancement) and is currently in Santa Rita jail on \$125,000 bail. The next hearing after Thanksgiving re a probable cause determination. There is a stay-away order in place should he released on bail. Andrew is coordinating with Mike Baker (T Sinai legal counsel) and John Ehrlich (chair of the T Sinai Safety and Security Committee) re communications with the District Attorney and Defense Counsel.

7:15pm: Consent Calendar

Terri Goren presented six new member families (all but one are also joining the preschool – some in January). These board members volunteered to call new families: Phil Witte, Melissa Heller, Ann Gordon, Laurie Leiber, Jim Manheimer, Laurel Ettinger.

7:20pm: Financial report

Sydney Schimmel reported that revenue from membership is at \$2.3million, ahead of plan. Religious school and Preschool revenue is at budget; Youth program revenue is below budget. Work share hours were expended in October for admin and facility

staff. PPP loan request for forgiveness is due at year-end. YESOD pledges over the next two years are expected to reduce the mortgage to below \$1million.

7:27pm: Jon Braslaw announced the Executive Committee officers for the upcoming year (see attachment).

Karen Tanner asked how slate is selected. Jon described that the president selects in consultation with the Rabbi. The EC has been meeting weekly since March and is currently meeting twice monthly; normally the EC meets once a month.

7:35pm: Calls to Not-Yet-Renewed members -

Currently there are about 30+ members on the list. Request for board volunteers to make calls. . These members volunteered: Josh Kuluva, Jim Manheimer, Ann Gordon, Karen Tiedemann, Sydney Schimmel, Melissa Heller, Anne Schmidt. Terrie has prepared a script but pointed out that it is most important to listen. Many of these families are in bad shape. A nominal contribution preferred but honorary membership is a possibility

Josh suggested that we solicit donations to cover membership shortfalls

Frances recommended calling it something other than honorary. The word honorary does not have to be used in discussion w families.

Neil asked if we should have an on-line category of membership or out-of-town membership Consider in strategic planning.

Program Updates

7:45pm: Preschool update

Ellen reported that everyone in the preschool is still healthy and safe – feels like a miracle. Planning for next year is underway - hoping to expand enrollment closer to pre covid model. Children have made Hannukah cards that can be ordered on enews as a small fundraising effort to replace VIP day. Not expecting county to order a shutdown due to current surge

7:49 pm: Religious School

Stephanie reported that there are currently 153 students enrolled in the K-6 program (7th grade was moved to the Youth program this year) Recent survey of parent was conducted to get feedback on the current remote learning structure.

Neil asked if there is any outreach to kids with disabilities in preschool or religious school. Not really but both schools include students with special needs

Neil asked about training for teachers re kids with special needs. Stephanie described training that some teachers receive

7:56: Youth Program

Rabbi Regev described the program for intergenerational connections that has recruited many past presidents for mentoring. Applied for a grant from SF Federation

for teen programs for social justice along with the social action committee for next year.

Rabbi Regev announced that this is his last board meeting before his parental leave.

Jon said he will be missed and that we will all look forward to his upcoming good news

8:00pm: Music

Cantor Keyes reported that the Music workshops have had at least 50 participants for each event. Next workshop is Tues Dec 1 and features composer Elana Arian. She will also join the Dec 11 Shabbat service that will close Cantor Keyes' 25th year celebration. The service will include presentation of the tribute book compiled by Lynn Belmont.

A Hannukah sing-along is planned for December 12.

8:03pm: Clergy

Rabbi Mates-Muchin reported that virtual Hannukah candle lighting will be held every evening during Hannukah including at the Dec board meeting

Strategic planning was suspended due to covid. It's time now to start considering what to do when we have opportunities to meet in person again. Steering committee will reconvene and take into consideration permanent changes resulting from covid experience (eg more telecommuting)

Jon added that the sustainability work will restart to consider financial stability

8:09pm: Executive Session

8:30pm: Meeting adjourned

Next BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2020

2021 BOARD MEETINGS

January 20, 2021

February 17, 2021

March 17, 2021

April 21, 2021

May 19, 2021