

MINUTES
Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
7:00 – 8:30pm

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

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

Absent: Jim Manheimer, Susan Rosenthal, Rabbi Regev (Family Leave)

6:45pm: Call to order

Sharing thoughts about Hanukkah in COVID year. Smaller family gatherings. What we miss during virtual gatherings. We will appreciate it much more after this year. Looking forward to 2021

7:00pm: Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2020

Motion to approve Sydney Schimmel; second Karen Tanner; unanimous approval

7:03pm: Consent Calendar –

Membership report – Terrie Goren

Karen Tanner volunteered to call the new member

7:05pm: Financial report - Sydney Firestone Schimmel

Membership revenue same as last month

Fundraising at \$86K Annual giving started at Thanksgiving

PPP application for forgiveness due at end of calendar year. Will be submitted Friday (Terrie) Response/approval takes about 3 months.

Expect full forgiveness

Expenses lower due to liability insurance, lower landscaping costs.
Expect to use budget for deferred maintenance
NYR letters will go out Friday ~80 households
Expect \$700k in cash at end of year. Will be needed next year's budget.
Budget planning is getting underway for next year

7:12 Hot Topics/Updates

Rabbi-Educator recruitment process – Ann Gordon

Ann shared list of committee members Ann described CCAR process and timeline for new graduates. Our job description has been submitted. Offers are made starting Mar 2. There may be other applicants who are not new graduates.

Jon and Rabbi MM shared efforts to avoid implicit bias on part of committee. Many factors contribute to salary level

Attributes that would distinguish successful applicant is under discussion by the committee. Cultural fit is critical

Rabbi MM expressed appreciation to Stephanie for help in this process.

Bima Honors sign up Jon

Two sets of twins this weekend – need board reps

Bart will do noon, Richard Hart will do 10 am

Board should check the signup list

Asked to note which are from homes vs sanctuary. Most are doing it from sanctuary

Vandalism – Andrew Shear

Preliminary hearing occurred one charge was reduced. Suspect is still in county jail

There were a series of episodes not just a single event. In Andrew's opinion is that he is mentally ill.

Arraignment on Dec 21 trial in 60 days

Andrew will continue to monitor the case We have not taken any position beyond reporting and providing evidence. Discussion expressed need to consider recommendation of leniency at the appropriate time. We have no power to influence his ability to get treatment

7:45 Program Updates

Preschool – Ellen

Still open. Thanks to Becky Chase for help in sorting out complexities of the current environment, also Miranda and Dr Howard Backer Michelle and PPC. Families have been highly compliant. Over 30 two year olds have applied for next year. Staff is looking forward to winter break. Teachers are in tier 1B or C for vaccination. Advise lobbying the state on behalf of preschool teachers who don't have a union to represent them.

Religious School - Stephanie

Officially at the half way mark and on holiday break. Faculty had a virtual tour of Contemporary Jewish Museum. Teachers are doing a good job of maintaining team community.

Youth Program – Rabbi Mates-Muchin

Planning for confirmation of 12th graders at end of school year. Reaching out to teens who are not currently enrolled in youth program.

Applied for a grant re social justice program – should hear this week

Friday service honoring Cantor Keyes at the end of her anniversary year

Thanks from Cantor especially for the tribute book

Jewish Music Workshops highly successful. 40-60 attendees at each session

Future workshops Jan 16 <look it up> live from Israel.5

7:58 Transfer of cemetery to Sinai Memorial.

Correction to paperwork Quit claim for a single plot that was inadvertently omitted in the original agreement Already approved by the board as part of the original agreement. No financial implications. Jon will sign.

Motion to approve Andrew Shear; second Sydney Schimmel; unanimous approval

8:03 Social Action Update – Andrew Shear/Susan Rosenthal 8:03

RAC 2020 Civic Engagement Campaign

Joan reported that phone bankers made >12,000 calls for the November election and have made >5000 calls so far for the Georgia senate runoff in January.

Andrew reported that >3000 postcards were sent for the November election and volunteers have requested several hundred postcards to send for the Georgia senate election

Andrew listed many other social action activities

Food for Greenleaf school - shout out to preschool families for contributions

Described plans for Social action shabbat in January

8:07 Introduction to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) – Calvin Gibbs

TF met once, shared personal experiences,

Next meeting to establish goals and plans to move forward, define what DEI means for our community

This is part of a national effort across the reform movement. RAC has resources available

TF will propose activities will be presented to the board for review

Email Calvingibbs@hotmail.com

Executive Session

Next BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY, January 20, 2021