

Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

6:30pm Board Meeting

8 pm Executive Committee Meeting

Present

- **Staff:** Terrie Goren, Ellen Lefkowitz, Rabbi Freedman, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Cantor Keys, Rabbi Bressler
- **Board Members:** Liz Daoust, Becky McEntee, Jon Braslaw, Eva Fostovsky-Geckeler, Laurie Leiber, Bill Bonnet, Sydney Firestone-Schimmel, Kate Lucas, Natalie Crouch, Michelle van Tijen, Ari Levy, Lori Waltzer, John Ehrlich, Stephanie Eckhaus, Glenn Oleon, Calvin Gibbs, Susan Kagan Waitkus, Julia Fromson-Mayhew
- **Absent:** Karen Tiedemann, Allie Silverstein, Sean Sawyer, Anne Schmitz, Aaron Saxe, Dayna Orange

Meeting Minutes

1. Board Meeting - call to order 6:36pm
2. **D'Var Torah (Rabbi Daniel Freedman)**
 - Leadership journey. Thank you to Sinai for opportunity to grow as a Jew and professionally.
3. **Vote - Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2023**
 - Julia's edits will be incorporated, non-substantive
 - **Motion to approve** April minutes with Julia's non-substantive edits incorporated: Natalie Crouch
 - **Second:** Stephanie Eckhaus
 - **Motion passes:** Unanimously
4. **Information and Action - Consent Calendar - Membership Report**
 - 4 new member families
 - Board members signed up to call them

5. Information – Financial Report and Budget Presentation (Lori Waltzer)

- **Income:**
 - i. Membership: We are just over 97.63% subscribed at end of April, assume numbers are final at this point for the year
 - ii. School & youth revenue: assume complete for the year
 - iii. Fundraising income: Working on Rabbi Mates-Muchin's celebration for early June, at approximately \$145k out of \$145k budget for the event
 - iv. High holiday income: complete
 - v. Other Income: over 100%
- **Operating Expenses:**
 - i. Generally speaking, things look relatively on track from the expense side when we compare 83% of expenses (10/12 months of the year) as a benchmark as compared to 74.82% spent. Payroll is at 79% so closer to benchmark. What we are seeing at this point is that we expect to be \$100k in surplus at year end, therefore we will not reach 100% on each expense category. This can be seen in the re-projection provided with the FY 2024 budget being presented tonight.
- **Mortgage balance:**
 - i. As of 4/30/23, mortgage balance is \$2.0mm, no change from last month
 - ii. The \$250k line of credit does not have a balance on it and we do not expect to need to draw upon it for *operating* support this year.
- **Cash Reserve:**
 - i. Cash balance is approximately \$3.1 mm at 4/30, when we subtract \$1.3 loan draw allocated for the dome, we are at \$1.86mm. This is where we expected to be at this point in the year
 - ii. Adjusting for loan draw timing, ending cash at 6/30 from the cash flow is tracking in the \$1.6mm range (last year had been \$1.6mm most of the year)
- **Endowment balance:**
 - i. \$2.57M as of December 2023
- **Capital Needs:**
 - i. Dome repair underway, we are tracking costs to date – approx.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - i. Looking for the Board to vote to approve a deficit budget next month

6. Information- Bima Honors Presentation (Phil Rubin)

- Phil Rubin spoke about the why and how of Bima Honors
- Why is there a board member on the Bima at every service:

- i. To hold the Torah, to congratulate the B'nei mitzvah, to represent them entering into the larger community, so people know who board representatives are to talk to with an idea or issue.
 - ii. We are a community of volunteers, and a board member is ultimate volunteer
- Michelle will update the Bima Instructions with notes from Phil and include in the Bima Honors reminder email on the Thursday prior to a board member's Bima Honors

7. Action - Bima and Usher sign-up

- Thank you to those who have served in Bima Honors in past four weeks
 - i. Natalie, Eva, Calvin, Sydney, Laurie Leiber, Julia, Lori Waltzer
- Michelle has entered in all the dates through June 2024 into Better Unite
- Michelle will send an email with request to sign up through June 2024

8. Action – NCJW Resolution (Rabbi Julie Bressler and Natalie Crouch)

- Asking Board for the Temple to support 3 bills and sign a resolution that:
 - i. Extend medical policy for medication abortion from 70th day to 77th day
 - ii. Support out-of-state medical students in receiving training on how to administer an abortion. Ex. Texas students are not allowed to be trained in how to administer an abortion.
 - iii. Creates incentive payments for family providers to provide health education.
- This is not the only time the Temple has spoken out about supporting pro-choice. It is a formal statement that we stand by access to medical abortion. Reform Movement- supports reproductive choice. The general rhetoric is that religious organizations are not pro-choice and so this is important to sign off on.
- The Board has passed resolutions on same sex marriage, refugees in 2016, voting rights. Yes, the board has made political statements before.
- If a Temple member does not agree with the support, you may direct them to the clergy or Presidents to discuss.
- Please contact Natalie Crouch if interested in getting involved.
- **Motion to Approve** Temple Sinai to sign onto the National Council of Jewish Women resolution: Glenn Oleon
- **Second:** Calvin Gibbs

- **Approve:** All
- **Motion passes:** Unanimously

9. Action – Resolution Regarding Preapproving Capital Needs Funds for Studies (Terrie Goren)

- Looking for \$125k to be preapproved, authorized spending to fund expenses for the Temple Property.
- **Proposed Resolution**
 - i. RESOLVED, that the Board approves expenditures of up to \$125,000 for further investigation and minor repairs related to repairing and improving Temple property. The Board further authorizes the Temple co-presidents or Executive Director to sign whatever documents may be required for said contracting.
- **Motion to approve signing the resolution:** Sydney Schimmel
- **Second:** Bill Bonnet
- **Approve:** All
- **Motion passes:** Unanimously

10. Action- Resolution to Approve Legacy Recognition for Neil and Denise Jacobson (Rabbi Mates Muchin)

- Suggesting a plaque on the ramp in Sanctuary to give recognition to Neil and Denise Jacobson for their legacy
- This family has impacted the community and the greater world with extraordinary contributions
- **Proposed Resolution:**
 - To Name the Bima Ramp in the Sanctuary in Honor of Neil and Denise Jacobson. Over the past thirty-plus years, Neil and Denise Jacobson have contributed to the Temple Sinai community and the larger world in incomparable ways. They have been leaders and mentors for all in terms of access, equity, and inclusion, and deserve public recognition for their work and dedication. Therefore, be it resolved that the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees hereby designates and names the Bimah Ramp in the Sanctuary in honor of Neil and Denise Jacobson.
- **Motion to approve signing the resolution:** Stephanie Eckhaus
- **Second:** Michelle van Tijen
- **Approve:** All
- **Motion passes:** Unanimously
-

11. Information – Preschool Update and Transition (Co-Presidents and Ellen Lefkowitz)

- Ellen's last board meeting and she shared some memories:
 - The school is 30 years old. In 2010, in Preschool moved from part-time to full time (only 5 in 2010), in 2023-24 about 60 (out of 89) kids full time- with a wait list. Adapted in response to the community need. 18 teachers, 2 are completing master's programs, 2 are applying for master's programs, Full time tuition is \$22,950 (for school year). \$60k in scholarship funds to 20 families. We have worked on who the school is, its core Jewish values, and connections to early childhood education. Preschool Parent Committee raised money for equipment and scholarships. Diversity is celebrated. Board leadership came through preschool.
 - Challenges- finding and keeping teachers is the top challenge
- Ellen shared it was a blessing to run the school over the past 12 years, and wouldn't be able to take next step without what she has learned here and excited to take to larger community
- She recommended the Board ask Molly what the best model is for leadership of the school, including working with existing staff
- The transition plan is that Molly will step in the Interim role. Then a search committee will launch full search for a permanent role with a transparent process.

12. Information – Capital Needs Task Force Update (Terrie Goren and Lori Waltzer)

- We are confident that we will have sanctuary for high holidays

13. Information – Development Committee Update – Rabbi Mates-Muchin's L'Chaim Celebration Weekend (Terrie Goren)

- If you have not made reservation or sponsorship, please send in asap
- Wonderful weekend to celebrate
- Board members should plan to participate in 1 or all events

14. Good and Welfare

Meeting Adjourned 8pm

15. Executive Session