Temple Sinai
Pittsburgh PA

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees
September 19, 2019

In attendance: Marc Adelsheimer, Marcia Baumfeld, Nancy Gale, Suzan Hauptman, Steve Jurman, Mara Kaplan, Jerry Katz, Ellen Katzen, Rachel Kubrick, Josh Lederer, Philip Lehman, Brianna McDonough, Paul Pitts, Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Frank Schwarz, Samantha Skobel, Saul Straussman, Alison Yazer, Joe Weinkle, Todd Miller, Laura Fehl, Rabbi Gibson, Rabbi Gorban, Cantor Laura Berman, Drew Barkley, Rebekah Malkin

After minion, President Saul Straussman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Young Adult Presentation:
Rebekah Malkin, Director of Young Adult Engagement and Josh Lederer, chair of the Young Adult committee, presented an overview of young adult demographics at Temple Sinai and in the Pittsburgh Jewish Community.

The presentation included the committee’s vision statement and goals. Additionally, Rebekah and Josh noted the following benchmarks:

- Formed Young Adult Advisory Council
- Of the 32 new member families in the last 8 months, 15 have been young adults/ young families
- Almost 400 personal touches (from Rebekah to one other person) either via events, in-person meetings, phone calls, emails, or texts with young adults in the Pittsburgh Jewish Community
- 450+ non-personal touches via mass emails and social media

They concluded by reviewing upcoming events for the remainder of the FY.

Memorial Park Bylaws: (Steve Jurman)
Steve presented the revised bylaws, which had been reviewed previously, for the Memorial Park and a motion to accept them was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Pledge Update: (Drew Barkley)
Drew reported that by coupling Pledge reminders with the High Holiday mailing, at the time of the meeting, the response rate was 75% with the average pledge of $1,508, up from $1,413 for all Pledges last year. Overall, for Pledges received this year versus Pledges from the same people last year, average pledge is down $127. The new $100 per household Security Fund assessment has definitely influenced this number.

Contributions to the Capital Fund are $45,000 to date; to the Security fund, $45,000 to date. Pledges total $915,000.
Drew provided overview of the Program Enhancement Fund, which is a restrictive fund currently with three “pots” in the fund:

- Program Enhancement
- Katzen Holocaust Fund
- Lazar Biennial Supplement Fund

A motion to approve a 5% draw from the Program Enhancement Fund for the current fiscal year (2019-2020) to support special programming was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

In discussion, Jerry Katz, Treasurer, noted that he was in the process of separating the funds so they each have their own line and will be easier to track.

**Weapons Policy: (Saul Straussman)**

Saul reviewed the revised weapons policy that had been discussed previously and sent to board member and introduced a policy about signage that will be posted noting that any purse, backpack or package will be subject to search. Motion to accept both policies were made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Torah Project: (Nancy Gale)**

Nancy reported that the Torah Project was off to a strong start and reminded that the kickoff is November 23 with Soferet Linda Coppleson’s first visit. She provided a summary of other efforts that include Next Dor students collecting 304,805 pennies, for each letter in the Torah and the Random Acts of Torah project.

**Interim Rabbi Search Update: (Saul Straussman):**

Chaired by Alison Yazer and Josh Breslau, the interim rabbi search committee consists of Laura Fehl, Katie Whitlach, Joe Goldston, Morgan Faeder, Samantha Skobel, Chris Hart, Darcy Gordon and Rita Pollock.

**President’s Report: (Saul Straussman)**

Saul spoke at the September WOTS meeting about the interim rabbi search and process and fielded questions.

**Executive Director’s Report: (Drew Barkley)**

**Garden:**

A ribbon cutting for the new ramp will be prior to Friday night services. Crops of cucumbers have been delivered to the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry.

At last month’s meeting, Drew reported that there was $22,000 in the Garden Fund that would cover the $13,000 costs to complete a handrail and landscaping. However, these were the funds from the Charles Morris Foundation to cover the cost of the ramp and were “parked” in the garden fund. Drew requested that we move ahead with the landscaping, covering the costs from the Capital fund. These funds will be replaced from the naming rights to five benches (which will be $5,000 each).
New Members:
Drew nominated new member families. A motion to accept these new members was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Vegetable Garden:
Despite a late planting start, a bountiful harvest produced sizable crop that was donated to the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry.

Misc:
- Greeter training was conducted for High Holiday volunteers
- Memorial service held Sunday at noon at the Memorial Park
- Aaron Gaines will not be resident custodian and is being helped to find a new apartment
- Life & Legacy event was very nice; at time of meeting, 15 of 18 declarations needed for bonus were secured
- 120 attended the Rosh Hashanah dinner; many compliments

Clergy Reports:
Cantor Berman:
Cantor Berman reported that the Yom Kippur afternoon Jonah presentation is being replaced by a sing in of Lu Ya Hi and interfaith clergy has been invited to sing with congregation.

Rabbi Gorban:
Next Dor enrollment is 90+ and the first two weeks of religious school went smoothly

Rabbi Gibson:
Rabbi Gibson has shared his blogs from his Selman trip. He has 25 signed up to accompany him on his interfaith Israel trip. He provided an overview of the changes to the early Yom Kippur service and the Beit Midrash sessions and noted that “therapets” will be on hand. He invited Rev John Welch and Wasi Mohammed to participate in Yiskor service. He asked that we observe the Yom Kippur tradition of Teshuva/Repentance and make amends with five people.
He noted that his last Shabbaton will be held November 8-10. He will be taking a five week sabbatical from January 12-February 21.

After good and welfare, and upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Rubenson, Secretary
November 15, 2019