

**Temple Sinai  
Pittsburgh PA**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
January 16, 2020**

**In attendance:** Marc Adelsheimer, Marcia Baumfeld, Morgan Faeder, Nancy Gale, Suzan Hauptman, Stephen Jurman, Mara Kaplan, Jerry Katz, Rachel Kubrick, Josh Lederer, Philip Lehman, Brianna McDonough, Paul Pitts, Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Frank Schwarz, Samantha Skobel, Saul Straussman, Bill Taxay, Lynda Wrenn, Alison Yazer, Joe Weinkle, Todd Miller, Laura FehI, Rabbi Gibson, Rabbi Gorban, Cantor Laura Berman, Drew Barkley

After minyon, 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.

**Financial Update: (Jerry Katz & Mara Kaplan)**

Jerry reviewed financials to date. Overview:

- Pledge collection has been better this year
- Expenses are in line with what was expected
- Assets are up (Foundation revenue because market performance is better)
- Reserves are up, due in part to donations to the security fund.
- Jerry and Mara are beginning the preliminary budget cycle.

**Nominating Committee: (Philip Lehman)**

Philip noted that he received many suggestions for people to serve on the nominating committee and that the nine members (three board members, three non-board members, immediate past presidents Philip Lehman and Nancy Gale and one appointee by Saul) have been selected.

**WZO/ARZA Elections: (Frank Schwarz)**

Frank reviewed that between January 21 and March 11, American Jews can vote in the World Zionist Congress. URJ and Temple Sinai urge all to vote for the ARZA or Reform Slate which will help direct funds to the reform movement in Israel, among other support for the Progressive Movement. There is a minimum fee of \$7.50 to vote, which helps to cover election expenses.

**Interim Rabbi Update/President's Report: (Saul Straussman)**

Rabbi Daryl Crystal, our interim Rabbi will visit Pittsburgh Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb 4 and 5 to meet with staff, clergy, board and congregants. On Wednesday, February 5, all are invited to a 7 p.m. minyon to meet Rabbi Crystal and hear his D'var Torah. Saul and Alison will be meeting with Rabbi Cindy Engle, head of placement for the CCAR in mid-February.

Transition Committee update:

The committee has been meeting and the focus group segments are being formed.

**Torah Project Update: (Nancy Gale):**

Nancy reported that the next series of events for Linda Coppleson's visit February 9-10 have been planned. At the time of the meeting, about \$236,000 has been committed, which reflects 182 different pledges. Nancy reminded that there are still signing slots available.

### **Executive Director's Report: (Drew Barkley)**

Drew announced that there is a Homeland Security grant available with a February 14 deadline to apply. The award could be as early as March 11. The grant is requesting funds to engage a contractor to add an emergency exit from the sanctuary, from behind the Bimah to the east toward our adjacent rental property with a walkway that would lead up to our parking lot. Currently, we do not have an emergency exit from the sanctuary aside from our normal egress. The estimated cost is \$60,000 and the contractor is MCMP Associates. The conditions of the grant call for a portion of the amount for which we apply to be raised by Temple. For example: we can get up to \$25,000 without a match; if we apply for \$75,000, we have to match a third of the amount or \$25,000; if more than \$75,000, up to \$150,000, we would have to contribute half. A motion was made and seconded to apply for a grant of \$75,000, and to approve the expenditure of a \$25,000 match. After discussion, at which time it was noted that we have raised money for security, the motion was unanimously approved.

Drew also reported:

- Temple Sinai is part of the Jewish Communal Health Care plan through the Jewish Health Network and for FY 2020, the maximum increase would be up to 8%. Our expense is currently \$675 a month per employee; Temple Sinai pays the full amount.
- URJ has launched a new community leadership cohort for young adults (20s-30s) with two leadership tracks. Brianne McDonough has been nominated for the training.
- Sunday March 8 will be the Purim carnival and volunteers are needed to help
- Life & Legacy campaign needs seven more for Sinai to receive the additional \$2,000 bonus
- Upcoming dates to save:
  - Folk Shabbat is February 14
  - Dan Nichols, Artist-in-Residence March 20-22 with a March 21 concert
  - WOTS Great Temple Sinai Bake Off, March 28
  - Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ President visit April 3 to honor Jamie
  - Nefesh Mountain will perform May 31
  - Rabbi Gibson's last Shabbat will be June 19.
- We are working with Apple to develop a Temple Sinai phone app
- As a result of recent donation for a garden bench naming along with a flower garden (for \$25,000), and a second bench naming for \$5,000, we have repaid the \$13,000 back to the fund.
- Temple Sinai has secured a \$3,600 mini grant from the RAC to help fund a Worth Manifesto initiative to bring attention to the plight at the Mexican border
- Family activities and programs are being planned, including meet ups at playgrounds, movie events

### **Clergy Reports: (Reports will reflect new activities since last meeting)**

#### **Rabbi Gorban:**

- Thanked WOTS for the Next Dor Hanukah lunch and welcome-back Pancake breakfast
- She will re-start her "That's in Torah?!" classes in February and March on Mondays from 7-8 p.m.
- Intro to Judaism classes will run through July
- Rabbi Gibson will facilitate a series "Last Lectures" beginning in May on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Rabbi Sara Perlman will teach a class following minyon about the minyon service
- February 1, Rabbi Gorban is participating in an interfaith couples discussion about Israel

- February is Jewish Disabilities Awareness Acceptance Inclusion month (JDAAIM) and activities will include “trilogies” about mental health; a special Shabbat service, a Brotherhood brunch program with Joyce Bender on February 23
- February 28 is our Islamic Shabbat dinner and service
- New PARTY president is Hallie Kalson and she is reviving our youth group. There will be a shul-in event March 21-22 with Dan Nichols

Following Good & Welfare, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

***Submitted by Lynn Rubenson, Secretary***

***February 3, 2020***