Temple Sinai  
Pittsburgh PA  

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees  
March 28, 2019

In attendance: George Arnold, Elizabeth Collura, Lauren Coblentz, Morgan Faeder, Gina Faiola, Nancy Gale, Art Goldberg, Joe Goldston, Mara Kaplan, Jerry Katz, Ellen Katzen, Philip Lehman, Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Frank Schwarz, Saul Straussman, Ben Wecht, Alison Yazar  
Center/Auxiliary Representatives: Steve Jurman, Joe Weinkle  
Clergy and Staff: Rabbi Jamie Gibson, Rabbi Keren Gorban, Cantor Laura Berman, Drew Barkley  

Prior to the board meeting, at 6 p.m. Mara Kaplan led a special education session related to JDAIM.

After minyan, President Philip Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: (Nancy Gale)  
Nancy presented the Nominating Committee's slate to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on May 30, 2019. The slate is as follows:

Officers (terms ending May 2021)  
President, Saul Straussman  
First Vice President, Alison Yazar  
Second Vice President, Stephen Jurman  
Third Vice President, Elizabeth Collura  
Treasurer, Jerry Katz  
Assistant Treasurer, Mara Kaplan  
Secretary: Lynn Rubenson  
Financial Secretary, Josh Lederer  

At Large Trustees (two-year terms ending May 2021)  
Marc Adelsheiner  
Marcia Baumfeld  
Rachel Kudrik  
Barry Merenstein  
Paul Pitts  
Samatha Skobel
**Temple Sinai Security Update (Drew Barkley)**

Drew reported that the Security Committee is poised to prep a Homeland Security grant application, when we are notified that the process for application is open. A formal threat assessment was conducted in the building with the outcome that our system overall is better than most. Several items for attention were suggested, including:

- A double entry system for the back door
- An emergency exit behind the sanctuary

Bids are being taken for a building-wide PA system. Drew reported that $12,600 (out of the funds raised for security) has been spent to date with an expected reimbursement from Federation; amount TBD. To proceed with the Temple-wide communications system, $16,500 needs to be approved for expenditure.

*A motion to approve the purchase expenditure was made, seconded and passed unanimously.*

Another security training is scheduled for Sunday, March 31.

A gun policy was discussed with Drew explaining that such a policy would allow us to ask people if they are carrying a weapon. A discussion followed regarding liability, risks, and enforcement; no action was taken, as this was a preliminary discussion.

**Preparing for Round #2/Board Retreat (Philip Lehman)**

Philip reminded the Board of the Sunday, April 14 session with Rabbi Sam Joseph and asked all to revisit the Transition questions that had been distributed and discussed at January’s Board meeting with Rabbi Joseph.

**Development Update (Drew Barkley/Philip Lehman)**

Drew reported that the first year of the Life & Legacy campaign ended February 28 with Temple Sinai making its goal to realize a bonus of $8,000. Year Two has started with the goal of signing up another 18 members and Temple will receive another $5,000 incentive if we meet the goal. Philip reminded the Board members of their responsibility to support the congregation in this and other ways, noting the published expectations for trustees.

The Open Doors Award, which will honor Eva Tansky Blum, has already raised $110,000 from the host committee and sponsors; invitations will be mailed within the next two weeks.

The Torah Project has a fundraising goal of $350,000, principally during next fiscal year.

**Budget Progress Report (Art Goldberg/Jerry Katz)**

A preliminary budget was presented, noting the following considerations.

- We are entering a period of transition over the next few years.
- Pledge receipts look like they will be similar to the past (no increases, potential trend of decline due to membership demographics). Risk: Pledge collections could decline.
- The impact of security costs on the budget is uncertain, as the community is still working out best practices.
- Our costs are essentially fixed.
- Revenue goals are mostly projections.
- Expectations for the Torah project collection are aggressive.
• We are not planning an annual appeal; but will do an Open Doors Award.
• The School budget is essentially unchanged
• We are planning a new Security fee of $100 per household
• Increased expenses are offset by increased revenue
  o Security
  o Torah Project
  o Miscellaneous cost increases
• Personnel
  o We anticipate providing raises (there were none last year)
  o Health care costs project a 7% increase
  o We anticipate some income from JUC Hillel for custodial support
  o 20% of the Development Director salary comes from operations (vs. the endowment portion of her work)
• Other Income:
  o Fund for Future draw
  o Continue to draw down selected Reserve Funds

There is a potential $85,000 shortfall with this preliminary budget. Additional work will be done by the Budget Committee before we ask for Board approval.

**President’s Report (Philip Lehman)**

• Eva Tansky Blum will be this year’s Open Doors Award honoree. The event will be a special Shabbat and Oneg on May 17. Debbie Caplan Levinson and David Levinson are honorary chairs.
• The Annual Meeting is May 30. It’s important that lay leadership attend and meet members.

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

• There will be a Life & Legacy thank you reception on April 30, and a thank you dinner and Shabbat on Friday May 3.
• He reported that Rebekah Malkin’s efforts have increased visibility on social media with more followers engaged.
• April 15 is the target date to move to the Shul Cloud platform

Drew submitted new members for approval; they include:
• Elizabeth Fishbeck (returning)
• Mara Hollander (PhD student at Pitt)
• Anne Jackson (rejoining with a 12 year old daughter)
• Anne Linder & Agustin Valazquez (CDS teacher and family)
• Aaron Ruben & Lauren Fehl (to be married in November)
• Natalie Sumetsky (a Sat morning minyan regular)

**A motion to accept them as new members was made, seconded and unanimously approved.**
Clergy Reports
Rabbi Gibson:
Rabbi Gibson reminded the Board that he will be leading—a loing with East Liberty Presbyterian Church—a tour to Israel in the fall; flyers about the trip are available. On the last day of Pesach, services with Rodef Shalom will be at Temple Sinai.

Cantor Berman
Cantor Berman reminded us of the April 7 concert for the Cantor's Assembly that is in honor of Leonard Bernstein’s 100th Anniversary. She also said that there will be a Folk Shabbat on May 10.

After good and welfare, and upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Rubenson, Secretary
April 10, 2019