Temple Sinai
Pittsburgh PA

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees

May 16, 2019

In attendance: Lauren Coblenz, Elizabeth Collura, Laura Fehl, Nancy Gale, Joe Goldston, Suzan Hauptman, Steve Jurman, Mara Kaplan, Jerry Katz, Philip Lehman, Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Frank Schwarz, Saul Straussman, Lynda Wrenn, Alison Yazar
Center/Auxiliary Representatives: Todd Miller, Joe Weinkle
Clergy and Staff: Rabbi Jamie Gibson, Rabbi Keren Gorban, Cantor Laura Berman, Drew Barkley
By Invitation (board nominees): Paul Pitts*, Samantha Skobel*

After minyan, President Philip Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved. With new, incoming board nominees in attendance, all present made introductions.

FY 20 Budget Report (Jerry Katz)
Jerry Katz presented an overview and executive summary of the FY20 Temple Sinai Budget, including the sustaining amount that has been determined for Pledge, as well as the Memorial Park budget. He noted that the complete 24-page report with specific details is available for anyone who wants to read it. He presented expenses and expected income, based on pledge and donations, in the context of maintaining continuity during a period of upcoming transition and being mindful in changing trends that will impact Temple Sinai. He outlined the challenges and considerations:

- Revenue is heavily based on pledges
- Pledge fulfillment is still a challenge and although it has been an emotional success, has not improved our finances
- We are experiencing changing demographics
- Security costs are now a given.
- We have the additional challenge of maintaining continuity through transition
- The recommended 6.5% draw from Fund for the Future endowment is not sustainable over a longer period. Endowment has enjoyed some growth but exceeding a withdrawal rate of 4-5% is not advisable.

The proposed pledge sustaining amount is $2,645, and the average pledge has around $1,200. Both building fund and security amounts of $100 each will be assessed.
A brief discussion included the potential of receiving Homeland Security grants that would offset costs.

A motion to approve the budget was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Jerry thanked the committee, including Art Goldberg, Marc Darling, Joe Weinkle, Philip Lehman, and Saul Straussman and staff members Drew Barkley, Judy Lynn Aielo and Pam Ludin.

Drew presented the proposed Memorial Park budget, noting the significant cost savings since changes were made to maintenance. A motion to accept the Memorial Park budget was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
**Torah Project Exercise (Lynn Rubenson)**
As chair of the Marketing & Communications committee, Lynn reported that her group was working on an overall theme that would be used for our yearlong Torah Project. She led a short session to obtain Board input with regard to what Torah means to each of us, individually. Everyone shared his or her thoughts, the results of which were insightful and helpful as we plan the Torah Project.

**Executive Director’s Report (Drew Barkley)**
Drew submitted the following new members for approval:
- Dylan and Rebecca Kuzmik (relocated from Ann Arbor, expecting first child)
- Kerry Gettys (retired, former member of Temple David)

A motion to accept these members was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Drew also reported:
- The Open Doors Award has grossed $140,000, an increase over the budgeted amount of $80,000.
- The Rose Garden will be fully accessible with a new ramp and sidewalk; Barry Rudel had secured a grant to underwrite the majority of the cost. A master gardener has been engaged to landscape around the concrete walk and ramp. Temple Sinai is now almost fully accessible; the Library is the only remaining area that is not fully accessible.
- With an ad hoc Committee consisting of Mara Kaplan, Lynn Rubenson, Alison Yazar, and Judy Mahan, Drew is working on upgrading the greeter function and setting up better entry protocols for the High Holidays.
- A sinkhole at the Memorial Park (it’s at a distance from the graves) is the result of mine subsidence and is being filled in.
- The CPA accounting review of our books was conducted.
- Drew, along with George Arnold, will be teaching the WOTS cooking class on June 10.

**President’s Report (Philip Lehman)**
Philip noted the outstanding success of the Open Doors Award honoring Eva Tansky Blum, which will be at Shabbat on May 17.
Philip thanked the Board for its leadership and support during his presidency and distributed his matrix of our accomplishments during his term. He reminded everyone of the date change of the Annual Meeting to Wednesday, June 5.
The Board thanked Philip for his work and leadership.

**Incoming President’s Reflections (Saul Straussman)**
Saul shared his experience from the Scheidt Institute, which he described as truly one of the best conferences he has ever attended. In addition to continuing to build our culture of philanthropy, his goal is to make members feel more engaged and do more outreach (for example, writing those who have made their pledge to simply say “thank you”).

**Clergy Reports**
**Cantor Berman:**
Cantor Berman thanked Brotherhood, particularly Ben Wecht and John Schiller for their leadership, for a successful Folk Shabbat and Oneg.
Rabbi Gorban
The Teen School is moving from Monday nights to Sunday mornings, in response to parents’ feedback that their kids' schedules during the week are too busy. Pride Shabbat is June 1, led by Pride Tribe members, with Butterfly Story Telling, a la Moth style, following after services. June 2 is the second Pride Shabbat, organized by the Pride Tribe and supported by WOTS. June 14 is the Adult B’Nei Mitzvah service, led by Michael Collura and Rebecca Jacobsen.

Rabbi Gibson
Rabbi Gibson thanked everyone for their condolences and thoughts on his mother’s passing. He reminded us that the June 7 Friday night service will include a baby naming for his new granddaughter Leore, named after his father.

Rabbi Gibson announced that he had engaged Yossi Klein Halevi, author of Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor to present two lectures in Pittsburgh. The first was Monday, May 13, at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the second was on Tuesday, May 14, at the JCC.

He encouraged everyone to attend the Annual Meeting and thanked the Board for its service to our community.

After good and welfare, and upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Rubenson, Secretary
June 4, 2019