

Temple Isaiah
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2017

Voting Members Present: Shoshana Barer, Soo Borson, Carol Fragen, Peter Gordon, Richard Jeffery, Christopher Spellman

Non Voting Members Present: Rabbi David Lazar and Douglas Morton, Executive Director

Guests: Dr. Stuart Barton, Bill Brodovsky, Previous Chairman of the Board, Robert Fey, Previous Chairman of the Board, Christopher Greene and Harold Matzner

- I. **Christopher Spellman called the meeting to order as acting President due to the resignation of the President.**
 - A. Rabbi spoke of how it's not the building that is sanctified, but what goes on inside of it. Rabbi commented on the senseless hatred that he has observed. Gossip, people embarrassing others in public and people going on television interviews with false facts.
 - B. Shoshana Barer moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Richard Jeffery seconded, motion was approved unanimously.
 - C. Harold Matzner said that he didn't wish to be disrespectful to the Rabbi but that he has never seen Jewish people act so disrespectful. Harold stated that on other Boards that he serves on which include the Film Festival, McCallum, and the Eisenhower Medical Center, there are diverse opinions and people still treat each other with respect. Nothing like what is going on at Temple Isaiah. Harold further stated that this behavior has to stop. Harold pointed out that the letter that was recently sent out was unusual and not indicative of how everyone felt. Harold stated that he is very disappointed. The behavior makes one question if it's worth putting any effort into saving the congregation.
 - D. Harold commented that he has respect for Ira Helf who recently resigned from the Board and that he also is a friend with both Carol Fragen and Bob Fey. This carelessness as to how people are treated and actions that are taken must be stopped and instead energy should be placed on creating a sustainable financial plan that will show how the Temple can continue to sustain itself and grow
 - E. Harold stated that he is willing to help but the plan must make sense. Harold stated that Ira's plan made sense but there were no dollars in it. We need to know if we sale the building how many dollars we really need to continue to be sustainable. Likewise, if we keep the building will it lead to bankruptcy or is there a plan that will allow us to sustain ourselves.? These plans should be developed and determined on a respectful, factual business basis, not emotion. Harold commented that the Board should start over, with new rules and that the board should stage a new plan. People should speak to each other respectfully. The plan should include:

- a. Where dollars are coming from
 - b. The probability of economic growth
 - c. How the dollars will be raised
 - d. Probability of the plan succeeding.
- F. Bob Fey stated that he developed a plan and handed out a "Plan for Revitalization." Harold commented that there were no numbers and both Bob's plan (keep the building) and Ira's plan (downsize) need to be dollar tested for multi-year sustainability. The plan needs to be inclusive of fundraising and not just cost cutting. Once both of the plans are created, the Board should look at both of the plans and tune them up.
- G. Soo Borson stated that the likelihood of creating a successful plan to keep the current building is low. Harold said that we need to give Carol and Bob a chance to create a plan and that it is all about dollars. Sue also commented that the Board should strive to get the congregation to become owners of our current situation.
- H. Harold suggested that Ira might be willing to reconsider his resignation and return to the Board if we asked him. All but one member of the Board concurred. Doug Morton said that he would call Ira and let him know that they are hoping Ira will change his mind and remain on the Board.
- I. Bob commented that his ability to view QuickBooks was revoked. Bob stated he believes there are some major errors, funds might not be accounted for, ShulCloud transfers and Nestegg postings may have caused several mistakes. Harold recommended that Bob be given the ability to view the books immediately so he could work on the financial plan for saving the building. Harold also suggested Bob work with Steve Erikson. Harold stated that he doubted they could be too far off, the dollars are what they are.
- J. Carol Fragen commented that whatever the board does it should be transparent so that everyone knows what is going on. Even some of the board had no idea that anyone was driving around looking at properties, inclusive of the building that once housed the restaurant Margaritas.
- K. The completed polished plans should be presented to the congregation. It is okay to have respectful disagreements.

II. **Painting the Temple**

- A. Carol Fragen moved to paint the building. Shoshana Barer seconded. Carol stated that the architect who designed the building said the color should be changed to white. Rabbi commented that the congregation should be made aware that there is a choice of color, white or beige.
- B. Peter Gordon felt that we should make sure to get three bids before proceeding.
- C. Motion failed, 3 against, 2 for. Agreement was made that we will search out 2 more bids before reaching a decision. Peter Gordon and Adam Gilbert both volunteered to obtain additional bids.

D. Soo recommended that an email be sent to the entire congregation asking for opinions regarding the color choice.
Meeting adjourned.