

**Temple Isaiah  
Board of Trustees  
September 19, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Soo Borson, Carol Fragen, Adam Gilbert, Peter Gordon, Richard Jeffery, Mitchel Karp, Ron Martinez, Gary Miller and Peter Gordon

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

Not Present: Shoshana Barer, Larry Fechter

Guest: Bob Fey

Christopher Spellman called the meeting to order.

Rabbi discussed the history of the Shofar (Ramshorn) and its role in our spiritual practice.

Minutes of August 2017 board meeting approved by unanimous vote.

*Discussion of current accounts.* Soo Borson commented that we had previously passed a motion to move unencumbered funds from the Merrill Lynch endowment account to the checking account, setting aside \$100,000 (the original amount of the Blindman trust) in a separate savings account. Bob Fey stated that the Blindman account, like all other endowment funds, has been depleted over the last 15 years and that it was not restricted, in contrast to the view of the Executive Director which informed the Board's previous approved motion. The Board asked for proof that it isn't restricted, as definitive written documentation has not been found. Adam Gilbert suggested we let the Blindman family know that it is no longer worth \$100,000. No specific motion was made.

*Discussion of by-laws and potential amendments related to voting in Temple elections:*

1. *Definition of voting members of the congregation.* Christopher Spellman reviewed the Executive Committee's discussion of how voting members should be defined. Bylaws state that 'members in good standing', are entitled to vote in Temple elections. The board agreed that all member types (other than members who are employees of the Temple) and levels should be considered members in good standing and therefore voting members, but recognized that it would be desirable to specify criteria for offering a member dues relief and to have a way to track dues commitments. Dues relief is currently given at the discretion of the executive director; no formal criteria were proposed at this meeting. However, Doug Morton was asked to draft a "commitment form" that spells out each member's financial commitment.

2. *Voting method and quorum.* Bylaws permit absentee voting with specified notice, but do not permit voting by proxy. Soo Borson reported that the Executive Committee agreed that congregation voting will be done entirely by mail, rather than in person. She moved to amend the By-Laws changing the definition of a

quorum for a valid vote from 50 people to 51% of the members. Richard Jefferey seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

*Rabbi's report.* Rabbi Lazar reported that everything is ready for Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi Ariel Pollak flew in last week from Berlin and we have a new pianist for the congregation, Joel Baker. Attendance for services has been good, Rabbi Sally's class has been well attended and he may chat with Rabbi Offseyer to determine if he may want to do a class here sometime. A brochure for the Judaism for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is currently being printed. Reviewed updates on the Temple Facebook page.

*Finance Committee.* Richard Jeffery, Treasurer, reported that we had a profit for the first three months. He raised concerns about whether 1099 and 1096 reporting was complete. He will follow up with the ED and accountant to address these concerns.

*Facilities Committee. Subcommittee reports and discussion.* "Stay" Committee: Bob Fey reported that Destiny Church has an interest in renting space; Bob, Carol Fragen and Christopher Spellman will set up a meeting with Destiny Church to explore this idea further. Adam Gilbert stated that we need more information about what Temple Isaiah could rent for and suggested a test period (3-6 months) during which building space is listed, since increased rental income is a key feature of the Stay committee's plan. There was acknowledgement that improvements might be required for TI space to be attractive for a rental program sizeable enough to subsidize the synagogue. Rabbi Lazar noted that we are primarily a synagogue, not a Jewish Community Center as commonly understood in the US, and that rentals must not be allowed to interfere with or compromise synagogue functions. Christopher Spellman noted that fundamental conflicts need to be resolved regarding making rentals a central feature of our financial plan.

"Go" committee: Adam Gilbert reported on the search for buildings for sale or lease that would meet our needs. No suitable space is currently on the market but he has prepared pro forma estimates of costs of alternative choices and continues to monitor the market.

*Second congregation discussion group (September 27):* Soo Borson requested comments regarding the level of detail (about ongoing committee work and our financial position) the board wishes to disclose to the congregation at the next forum. Doug Morton asked "Stay" and "Go" committees to provide 3-4 bullet points for distribution at that meeting. Borson and Spellman will prepare that document.

*Timing of the next congregation vote: Stay or Go.* Carol Fragen noted that several donors have indicated that they would make large donations next year if we promised not to sell the building, and that they wanted that decision to be made before the end of the year (i.e. for tax writeoffs in 2017).

*Fundraising.* Peter Gordon reported on progress and sponsorship for the opera event; working on a suitable name. Rabbi reported Jews Do the Blues Too will have \$2,300 expenses; \$5,000 sponsor commitments so far, with a target of \$20,000 net. Madalina Garza and David Morgan are putting together a press kit for sponsorships

that will range between \$10,000 and \$175,000. Tickets for the event will be \$75 preferred, \$25 for all others. Mugs and T-shirts will be sold.

*Board elections.* Gary Miller noted that we need to start putting a nominating committee together for elections in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Douglas Morton, Executive Director  
Edited by Soo Borson