

**Temple Isaiah
Board of Trustees Annual Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Shoshana Barer, Carol Fragen, Adam Gilbert, Peter Gordon
Ira Helf, Richard Jeffrey, Christopher Spellman, Atma Wiseman

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

Voting Members Not Present: Soo Borson (excused), Gary Miller (excused)

Opening Remarks

A. Rabbi gave D'var Torah

- Moses once made a mistake but eventually got it right.
- It is important for the new Board to realize that there is an entire non-profit world out there and we should ask questions.
- We have to change something to be successful.

B. A comment was made regarding how much people liked the outline style of the minutes. Adam Gilbert moved to approve the December 20, 2016 minutes, Carol Fragen seconded, approved.

C. The Board was reminded that each member must donate a minimum of \$100 to the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

Discussion regarding Service Times and Passover Seder

A. Rabbi stated that while he likes freedom of the pulpit and subject matter that he wants to teach. He also believes it s a good idea to get consensus about some things. Rabbi stated that he is having Larea collect feedback regarding the 6:30 starting time and that we will also examine attendance.

B. Rabbi said that he doesn't want to know what night each Board member wants Seder, but rather which night would be best for the Congregation, first or second? We went around the room and each Board member gave his/her opinion/thoughts. Based on that input, Rabbi recommended 1st night as the better choice for the congregation. The Board unanimously agreed.

Executive Director's Report

- A. We have had our elevator inspected and are working on the annual elevator certificate.
- B. Sascha Lazar now has health benefits per the Rabbi's contract.
- C. Ira Helf, Rabbi Lazar and Douglas Morton are working on grant requests from the Jewish Federation of the Desert.
- D. Christopher Greene is currently working on a hole in the ceiling and a heating issue at Creative Beginnings.
- E. Palm Springs Symphony Orchestra has contacted us to discuss having the inaugural concert in April at our Community Center.
- F. The Temple has had three successful income producing events as follows:
 - a. Linda Lavin Concert net \$29,493
 - b. Jews Do the Blues net \$ 8,936
 - c. Jewish Film Festival IV (to date) net \$15,042
- G. Ira commented that we are probably going to do much better this year than last year.
- H. We are currently \$15,000 below last year's expenditures on the budget in maintenance.

Committees

- A. Ira Helf has designated the 2017 Committees as follows:
 - a. Events & Fundraising Chris Spellman
 - b. Membership Doug Morton
 - c. Real Estate Adam Gilbert
 - d. Ritual Sandie Ovesen
 - e. Tikkun Olam Soo Borson
 - f. Women's Auxiliary Shoshana Barer
- B. Committee facilitators will report at the board meetings and meet with their committees.
- C. Adam Gilbert motioned and Shoshana Barer seconded to accept the Committees as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Events & Fundraising

- A. Christopher Spellman presented some thoughts about how to move forward on Events & Fundraising. He also stated that Atma Wiseman has extensive skills in fundraising and is hoping she'll be able to help. Each Board member needs to take initiative and all help each other.
- B. Shoshana Barer mentioned the next Potluck will be on Purim.
- C. Atma Wiseman suggested the use of Racei Charts.
- D. Christopher Spellman said everyone should try to find 1 sponsor for \$1000 or more and commit to at least one fundraiser.

- E. Carol Fragen pointed out that we can't fundraise in January or February because of restrictions from the Jewish Federation of the Desert.
- F. A recommendation was made to have a different Board member give announcements at services each week.
- G. Shoshana Barer stated that the Women's Auxiliary is planning a cocktail party in the Spring to be held at 360 North.

Volunteers

- A. Ira Helf stated that there are 3 key venues that focus on volunteers:
 - a. Services
 - b. Women's Auxiliary
 - c. Interaction in the office

Real Estate Committee

- A. Adam met with:
 - a. Larry Spellman
 - b. David Freedman
 - c. Chuck Steinberg
 - d. Atma Wiseman
- B. Adam stated the purpose of the meeting was to update the committee and to get them up to speed as to where we are and the purpose of the committee.
 - a. The building is on the market.
 - b. Any offers need to be evaluated as they come up.
 - c. There are assets in the building
 - d. We have an endowment that is dwindling and will reach a point of no return sooner rather than later.
- C. The Committee reached the conclusion that they would prefer to preserve the building because of it's history and the fact there is no debt. However the problem of the dwindling endowment must be dealt with.
- D. There is currently an offer from a member in the congregation, Robert Weinstein. As submitted the offer doesn't meet our needs.
- E. Many would like to keep the building because of the architectural significance, but then we will require the funds to maintain it.
- F. The Broker is aware that we would prefer to sell to a buyer that would preserve the building.
- G. Ira Helf suggested that we should have some sense of offers that may come in by February 15.
- H. Adam suggested that we request a period of time from Robert Weinstein before submitting a counter-offer.
- I. It will be very important to clarify the scope of maintenance and how much money we'll need to keep the congregation going.

- J. It is critical that we negotiate a deal that funds the endowment so the congregation doesn't end up in the same situation down the road.
- K. David Freedman suggested that we retain a Real Estate attorney to represent our interests as soon as possible.
- L. The response should be given to Robert Fey, Mr. Weinsten's agent.
- M. Adam mentioned some other options:
 - a. Finding an institution who could be interested in leasing part of the space. Such institutions might include institutions like College of the Desert.
- N. The Committee will be having another meeting soon.

Treasurer's Report

- A. Ira Helf stated that we continue to have issues between Shulcloud and QuickBooks . Currently we appear to be \$42,000 ahead of last year. Last year, at this point in the fiscal year, we hadn't recognized the Federation income yet. So that is one of the differences between this year and last.
- B. We have been taking less from the endowment this year. Even with market fluctuations we are \$22,000 ahead.
- C. We've maximized increasing revenue and decreasing expenses.
- D. Adam Gilbert moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Atma Wiseman seconded, motion carried.

Shoshana Barer moved to adjourn, Adam Gilbert seconded, meeting adjourned.