

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
The Jewish Center of Princeton  
Thursday, March 16, 2017**

**Board Meeting Attendees:** Naomi Perlman, Fred Appel, Gil Gordon, Steve Hudis, Edye Kamenir, Audrey Straus, Susan Kanter, Judi Fleitman, Linda Milstein, Nicole Soffin, Linda Grenis, Naomi Perlman, Moshe Margolin

**TJC Staff Attendee:** Rabbi Adam Feldman, Debbie Orel

**1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

**2. Good and Welfare**

No items were mentioned on this occasion.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Board meeting of February 16, 2017**

As the meeting was not attended by a quorum of Board members, the minutes of the previous meeting were not approved. Minutes of the February/17 meeting will be presented to the Board again at the next meeting for its approval.

**4. Finance Report (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Naomi Perlman reported that the shul is approx. \$80,000 off its current FY budget.
- (b) The April 1<sup>st</sup> Soiree fundraising is proceeding very well and exceeding expectations; other fundraising (Purim sponsorships, annual fund) is lagging.
- (c) Collection of dues and school tuition are proceeding and accounts receivables are improving.

**5. Administrative/House Report (Susan Kanter, Debbie Orel)**

- (a) Changing of all lighting with PSEG project is proceeding in the next few months.
- (b) A new projector is being installed into the adult library room in time for the Soiree.
- (c) Bathroom renovations are being done during passover.
- (d) Security: a meeting was held with the Princeton police department which provided security suggestions. A lock and buzz-in system for the front door was strongly recommended. Other existing locks, especially in the school, need to be replaced to become security compliant. Shades have also been ordered. These basic remedial security renovations will cost approximately \$5-8,000. Estimates have been solicited in the past for a more comprehensive security plan, involving installation of cameras, replacement of window glass, hiring of a security firm, etc. There may be Dept of Homeland Security grants that could be applied for to help underwrite these more significant costs which would be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

- (e) A reserve analysis has been completed and is still being analyzed by the finance committee. A presentation of this analysis will be made to the Board at the next meeting. The analyst recommends a reserve of \$1.1 million in a reserve fund to cover infrastructure renewal and repair, which is approximately \$750,000 more than what the shul currently has in its reserve.
- (f) Re: Custodial services: the shul has been unable to retain adequate custodial support staff, and this has been a problem since last fall. There is satisfaction with the present full-time custodian (Luis Rodriguez), but he works for a custodial agency that has not been able to send for other reliable custodians. There was some discussion about hiring Luis directly – i.e. making him a full-time Jewish Center employee and cutting out the agency.

#### **6. Transition Report (Judi Fleitman)**

- (a) Two parts: first part of the transition plan is for the short term. The second part, to begin in next FY, will involve hiring a new permanent Cantor/Hazzan.
- (b) Re: first part – the current plan involves hiring a range of professionals: a hazzan strictly for the High Holidays, a professional to train b'nai mitzvahs, professionals to help lead Friday night and Saturday morning services, a professional to help with youth services on HH and perhaps periodically for shabbat services.
- (c) 10 applicants have applied for the HH Hazzan position; 3 have been shortlisted.
- (d) It was suggested that the congregation be informed of these initiatives soon. Young families in particular need reassurance.
- (e) Regarding the longer-term plan, preparations for a serious search, which must begin by November, should begin before the High Holidays. Rabbi Feldman recommends that the new lay leadership begin these discussions in July.

#### **7. Clergy Report (Rabbi Feldman)**

- (a) RAF thanks everyone who contributed to the shul's Purim programming.

#### **8. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) The subject of the April 1/17 Soiree was raised, and all Board members who have not reserved tickets for the Soiree or otherwise contributed are urged to do so.
- (b) Board members were reminded that the April/17 Board meeting will be devoted to the budget, and all committee chairmen/women who have specific recommendations regarding their committees' budgets for the FY are urged to attend.

#### **9. Executive Session**

- (a) Items discussed in this section concern confidential matters – such as (but not limited to) personnel.

#### **10. Adjournment**

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel  
Recording Secretary