

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
The Jewish Center of Princeton  
Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**Board Meeting Attendees:** Naomi Perlman, Jeanette Timmons, Alexandra Bar-Cohen, Linda Grenis, Audrey Straus, Rebecca Sarett, Nicole Soffin, Mike Vermut, Fred Appel, Susan Kanter, Jonathan Gershen, Bob Garber, Gil Gordon, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Judi Fleitman, Suki Wasserman, Naomi Richman Neumann, Jerry Neumann, Michael Bloom, Randy Brett, Dina Shaw

**TJC Congregants in Attendance:** Ruth Schulman, Sherry Rosen

**TJC Staff Attendees:** Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan, Phil Nordlinger

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

- (a) Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

**2. Good & Welfare (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) On behalf of Social Action Committee Jeanette Timmons informed Board that a refugee family is finally arriving from Pakistan via Thailand and settling in the Princeton area, thanks to the Refugee Resettlement Committee Coalition, which includes strong Jewish Center involvement. Melissa Hager & Louise Sandburg in particular are helping the family settle into Princeton in the coming days.
- (b) Linda Grenis's son returned safely from a visit to Kazakhstan.
- (c) Dina Shaw noted that Open House reception for exploratory members was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> and was successful.
- (d) Alexandra Bar Cohen discussed an Earth Day event at TJC from 11 am to 1 pm on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) A motion was made by Randy Brett to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2016. Naomi Richman Neumann seconded. The minutes were approved with no abstentions.

**4. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Nominating Committee has been formed and has started to meet, chaired by outgoing Trustee Bob Garber (also serving: Rebecca Sarett, Suki Wasserman, Robin Persky, Bob Weber, Josh Zinder, and Jen Black).
- (b) Another committee, aimed at designating the Congregant of the Year, has also been formed and is chaired by Jerry Neumann. Suggestions for the honor should go directly to Jerry.
- (c) The lease agreement with the U League preschool is close to execution. The text is now with U League for their signature.

**5. Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws (various)**

- (a) Naomi Richman Neumann proposed an amendment to the Bylaws that would require advance notice of Annual Meeting agenda items that would entail a congregational vote. The proposed amendment, introduced to the Board and modified slightly in the course of the meeting, is as follows:
- a. Specifically, she proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted into Article IV (“Meetings and Voting”), Section 1 (“Annual Meeting”) of the Bylaws:
    - i. “Any member who wishes to bring a matter requiring a vote of the congregation before the Annual meeting shall provide written or electronic notice to the President and Board Secretary, including the discussion topic and the text of any motion or motions, not less than fourteen days prior to the meeting. The President shall provide written notice to the membership, not less than ten days prior to the meeting, of such agenda items. No business shall be raised and moved for a vote of the members at the Annual meeting without such prior notification.”
  - b. Naomi Richman Neumann made a motion to bring this proposed addition to Article IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws to the general membership of the congregation at the next Annual Meeting for a vote. Dina Shaw seconded the motion. After discussion the Board voted unanimously to support the motion.
- (b) Gil Gordon, noting that Naomi Richman Neumann’s proposed addition to Article IV, Section 1 makes reference to “electronic notice” of the membership, suggested that other parts of Article IV pertaining to notification of the membership should likewise be amended to allow for other-than-written notification for annual and special meetings.
- a. Specifically, he moved that the following part of Article IV, Section 1 be reworded as follows:
    - i. CURRENT: “The Annual Meeting of members shall be held upon not less than two nor more than thirty days written notice of the time, place, date...”
    - ii. PROPOSED: “the Annual Meeting of members shall be held upon not less than ten nor more than thirty days written and/or electronic (to include telephonic) notice of the time, place, date...”
  - b. And Gil moved that the following part of Article IV, Section 2 be reworded as follows:
    - i. CURRENT: “A special meeting shall be held upon not less than seven nor more than thirty days written notice of the time, place, date and purposes of the meeting.”
    - ii. PROPOSED: “A special meeting shall be held upon not less than seven nor more than thirty days written and/or electronic (to include telephonic) notice of the time, place, date and purposes of the meeting.”
  - c. It was suggested that this new wording of these two sections of Article IV be brought to the Board at its next meeting for its consideration – and for a vote as to whether they should be brought to the general membership of the congregation either at a special congregational meeting later this spring or at the next Annual Meeting for a vote.
- (c) Naomi Perlman introduced another proposed amendment to the Bylaws suggested by congregant Alan Medvin concerning the establishment of the office of President Elect (PE) at TJC. His proposed amendment would entail the following changes in the lay leadership structure:

- a. The term of the president of TJC (POTJC) would be changed from a one year term (with a maximum of two consecutive terms) to one two year term (with no consecutive term to follow).
  - b. The nominating committee would nominate (and the Congregation would elect in the usual manner) a president-elect to serve in year two of the term of POTJC.
  - c. The PE would replace the immediate past president (IPP) on the executive committee (EC) during his or her one her term. (Thus, the number of officers on the EC would not change, and the IPP would serve on the EC for only one year, not two as is now the case.)
- (d) The following text is taken from Alan Medvin’s memo to Naomi Pearlman in support of this amendment:

“The above would require simple changes of the Bylaws in several sections (including the section referable to the composition of the nominating committee to make clear that the chair of such committee would continue to be the IPP even though the IPP would no longer be a member of the EC.) Drafting these changes could be accomplished if the Board decides to support the amendments and place the issue on the agenda for the May 2016 Annual Meeting.

Such amendments would become effective immediately following the Annual Meeting in May of 2016. Thus, they would not impact the current officers in any way. The POTJC elected by the Congregation in May of 2017 would be elected for a two year term, and a PE would be elected to serve beginning in June of 2018.

The rationale for this proposal is that creating the office of a PE would be in the best interest of TJC as it would lead to an increased period of training of incoming presidents and smoother transitions from president to president. It should be also remembered that the Bylaws provide for the possibility of a contested election for POTJC (or any other office.) In the (unlikely) event of a non-slate candidate prevailing in such a contested election, it would seem far better for there to be a contested election for PE as opposed to POTJC, for if the non-slate candidate prevailed, he or she would at least have the benefit of a full year as PE and not be potentially thrust into the office of POTJC weeks after the election.”

(e) It was decided to table the Medvin proposal for further discussion and vote by the Board at its next meeting.

## **6. Administration Report (Phil Nordlinger)**

- (a) TJC Congregational survey concerning congregants’ views on Israel is currently being administered. Phil noted the challenges involved in alerting the entire congregation to the survey as well as the challenges in its administration. He also noted an impressive response rate: 315 responses have been received thus far, with the deadline for congregational responses being March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- (b) Phil also discussed various renovations to the physical plant and landscaping that are in the works.
- (c) Two bids for feasibility study for bimah accessibility project have been received; four bids for bathroom accessibility project have also been received.

## **7. Finance Report (Jonathan Gershen)**

- (a) Various financial reports were presented to the Board, including accounts receivable as well as current reports on income and expenses thus far in the FY, comparing them with budgetary projections. Current membership numbers were also reviewed.

#### **8. Egger Shabbaton (Israel Dialogue) recap and update (Helaine Isaacs and Linda Grenis)**

- (a) Naomi Perlman thanked Helaine and Linda and all the other members of the Israel Dialogue Committee for their hard work in organizing the Egger Shabbaton weekend as well as the TJC Congregational survey on Israel
- (b) Rabbi Weintraub and her organization were pleased with how the weekend went. The facilitated workshops were successful.
- (c) Once the congregational survey deadline has passed the results will be tabulated by Adina Philips. A special Board meeting will be called at which Adina will present the results. The date of this meeting is to be determined. The results of the survey will also be presented to the congregation as a whole at a town hall meeting after Passover. The date of this event is also to be determined.

#### **9. Other Business**

- (a) Naomi Perlman, referring to the aforementioned resettlement in Princeton of the refugee family from Pakistan via Thailand, proposed that a motion be made for TJC to set up a Board-restricted fund for the financial support of this family during this period of adjustment. Board approval is required to allow for monies to be deposited in the account, to be called “TJC Refugee Fund”. A motion to this effect was made by Gil Gordon and seconded by Jerry Neumann. The Board voted unanimously to authorize the fund.
- (b) Naomi Perlman mentioned that another special fund will be established for TJC custodian Will Bynes, who remains hospitalized, to assist him with his needs.
- (c) Judi Fleitman appealed for Board volunteers to present gifts to Bar and Bat Mitzvah children later this spring.

#### **10. Executive Session**

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

#### **11. Adjournment**

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel  
Recording Secretary