

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

Board Meeting Attendees: Naomi Perlman, Fred Appel, Helaine Isaacs, Steve Hudis, Edye Kamenir, Audrey Straus, Nicole Soffin, Dina Shaw, Judi Fleitman, Charlene Borsack, Ginger Schnitzer, Naomi Richman Neumann, Moshe Margolin, Michael Feldstein, Jon Shavel, Linda Milstein, Phil Carchman, Linda Meisel

TJC Staff Attendee: Debbie Orel

1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

2. Good and Welfare

A note from Jesse & Marissa Treu was read out to the Board about the recent Soiree fundraiser in their honor, expressing gratitude.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Board meetings of February 16, 2017 and March 16, 2017

A motion was made by Audrey Straus to accept these minutes. Seconded by Naomi Richman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) Discussion of plans in the wake of the announcement of Neil Wise's decision to leave. He will end his nine-year tenure at TJC at the end of June/17.
- (b) Re: Custodial changes: the company Star Custodial, with whom TJC has worked for the last few years, will no longer be used. Custodian Luis Rodriguez will be employed by TJC as an independent contractor.
- (c) Regarding the bathroom renovations: these are ongoing and all bathrooms will be handicap accessible very soon.
- (d) Re: bathroom renovations to make facilities handicapped accessible: the contractor has measured the spaces, equipment is on backorder. The contractor's schedule is still to be determined.
- (e) The prospect of an in-house caterer was discussed. Naomi provided some background. In the past certain caterers insisted on an exclusive relationship with TJC, i.e. contractual relationships that would not allow the presence of other caterers. At present Classical Caterers (henceforth "Classical") are doing the vast majority of catering at TJC and this company has indicated that it wishes to become the schul's official caterer. A confidential draft agreement b/t TJC and Classical was circulated by Naomi Perlman. According to the draft agreement the two parties agree to lock in the company's current catering prices for the next three years – specifically for Kiddush lunches to which the whole congregation is invited. Under the proposed arrangement

Classical would also be the schul's caterer of choice for all private parties held at TJC. The proposed arrangement with Classical would not preclude catered events for smaller numbers that would use other food services (e.g. Tichon, staff dinners, etc). The caterer would pay for renovations to TJC kitchens; installing new sinks, dishwashers, installation of new cabinetry and storage space, etc. Several Board members expressed support for Classical and for the broad outlines of the draft agreement. Judy Fleitman requested that she be involved in the discussions to finalize the agreement in light of her experience arranging kiddish lunches as VP of Religious Affairs and several Board members expressed support for this. There was also a request for more information about the agreement. Discussion ensued about how the new arrangement is to be communicated to the schul membership and particularly to the bar/bat mitzvah families.

- a. Steve Hudis made a motion to give the President the authority to finalize a contractual agreement with Classical. Ginger Schnitzer seconded. Motion carried with 23 yes votes, 2 negative votes, and no abstentions.

5. Administrative Report (Debbie Orel)

- (a) A Homeland Security grant is been applied for installation of new security equipment. There is some possibility that U-League could apply separately.
- (b) The PSE&G grant – for electrical upgrade - is also being applied for.
- (c) Custodial services: in addition to Luis R who will be retained as an independent custodial contractor TJC plans to hire three new custodians who are being hired directly by the shul rather than through a custodial company. Luis will have supervisory responsibility over the new custodial staff.

5. Hazzan Transition update (Judy Fleitman)

- (a) A verbal agreement has been reached with a high holiday hazzan and a search for a leader for children's high holiday services is in course. Still looking for someone to help with shabbat services; looking at several outside candidates and expect more via the Jewish Theological Seminary. There are also discussions in the works with a strong candidate for bar/bat mitzvah tutoring; the candidate is a hazzan with strong educational experience.
- (b) It was strongly suggested that these new contract workers be introduced to the congregation before the start of high holidays.
- (c) Discussion ensued about the plan for bar/bat mitzvah tutoring in the upcoming season and about what the optimal form of support for these children would look like.

5. Finance Update and Budget Presentation (Jon Shavel)

- (a) Jon Shavel presented the projected (provisional) budget for 2017-18 as well as the p & l for 2016-17 to date.
- (b) Projected membership figures were shared with the Board. It was noted that the recent trend of membership decline has been arrested and membership for '17-'18 appears to be the same as '16-'17.

6. Executive Session

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

7. Adjournment

(a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel
Recording Secretary