

**TJC Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 10, 2014**

Attendance: Fred Appel, Alexandra Bar-Cohen, Jen Black, Dan Brent, Randy Brett, Denise Cheskis, Hazzan Dulkan, Russ Feder, Rabbi Feldman, Judi Fleitman, Martha Friedman, Barbara Gantwerk, Jonathan Gershen, Gil Gordon, David Greenberg, Melissa Hager, Susan Kanter, Nancy Lewis, Moshe Margolin, Miki Mendelsohn, Jerry Neumann, Naomi Perlman, Ginger Gold Schnitzer, Dina Shaw, Polly Strauss, Jeanette Timmons, Suki Wasserman, Marc Wisotsky, Amy Zacks, Josh Zinder

Vice Chairs: Michael Bloom, Evy Grossman, Helaine Isaacs, Mindy Langer, and Rebecca Sarett

Guests: Eve Coulson, Jeremy Kasdin, and Naomi Richman Neumann

Meeting commenced at 8:04 pm.

1. Gil introduced people around the table since it was the first meeting of the school year.
2. There was a motion on the floor to approve the minutes and it was seconded
3. Naomi - update on security procedures for High Holidays (HH)
  - a. A meeting was held for greeters last week regarding police and security
  - b. There will be uniformed Princeton police and street-clothed private security at TJC and Riverside
  - c. Although some would consider this an inconvenience, it is for everyone's safety
  - d. All of us should learn how to notice suspicious people and what to do
4. Russ requested HH greeters to not just check tickets but to actually greet and welcome people
5. Gil mentioned that if the fire alarm goes off we must exit the building
6. Gil and Denise will send out a list to each board member for congregational phone calls
7. Gil wanted all to have the background information for the room rental policy
8. Jeremy Kasdin's presentation commenced at 8:18 pm
  - a. Gratitude was expressed to the Room Rental Committee because it was a lot of work
  - b. The committee members were committed and dedicated
  - c. The committee was hoping to restore community and dialogue amongst our congregation
  - d. Real distinction between room rental (this was the mandate) and programming
  - e. There was no policy in place whatsoever
  - f. There need to be guidelines for renting our facility
  - g. Jeremy researched far and wide about organizations, laws, policies and IRS rules
  - h. It may serve well to have an advertising policy prior to a room rental policy
  - i. The reason for the moratorium was to take out the political position and rebuild community, sensitivity and trust
  - j. The congregation should trust the leadership and decisions being made as well as the process
  - k. Comments from the Board
    - i. The report was written in May but times have changed
    - ii. The ten committee members did not think there would be consensus but there was
    - iii. "It was a very difficult committee to work on. Divergent views were represented on the committee. In the end the committee was interesting and enlightening. I commend Jeremy on his leadership."

- iv. It was asked if the (PCDO) would not be allowed to use our space under the suggested policy - Jeremy said "correct"
  - v. "Is co-sponsoring allowed?" Jeremy said the intent is to get the organizations out of the equation but allow speakers to talk about Israel even if there is disagreement
  - vi. "Why a two year moratorium?" Jeremy said, "Honestly, the committee revolted over his three year suggestion but one year felt too short a period of time."
  - vii. "Are there other groups that rent from us?" Jeremy said Zamru and other religious organizations are welcome to rent.
  - viii. Suggestion – 501c4s should be the only organizations that should have a moratorium. Jeremy said the policy should be consistent throughout so that wouldn't be fair.
  - ix. "When the congregation talked with you, did you feel there was a plurality?" Jeremy said this was not a poll or statistical sample. The committee tried not to see majority but in all fairness, they heard the majority wanted open dialogue about free speech.
  - x. One of the Room Rental Committee members mentioned that not everyone appeared in person. There were approximately 52 emails. There were no recognized generalizations represented by TJC.
  - xi. "Since there will be people who represent political organizations, will there be monitoring of who speaks?" Jeremy said that once the policy is made then there should be a process to determine who and what is allowed.
  - l. 8:52 pm - Jeremy, Naomi and Eve were asked to leave the room
9. Gil wanted to follow up the Committee's presentation with conversation about the Executive Committee's report
10. The first question asked, "Why did the EC make another policy?"
- a. Gil answered that the EC wanted to take a different approach and now there are two versions of policy possibilities
  - b. It was mentioned to the EC that the Jeremy's committee went past its charge
  - c. EC did not want to write another policy but felt the need to do so
  - d. EC's role is to do what is right for TJC
  - e. 501c3s have some lobbyists so one policy is needed to recognize the similarities and differences of 501c3s and 501c4s
  - f. Room Rental Committee's report is more of a guideline, not an actual policy
  - g. EC was not comfortable with a moratorium because it was not in the best interest TJC
  - h. VP of Programming is to have the request but the EC would assist with controversial issues
  - i. EC's focus was not on Israel
  - j. EC used many guidelines from the Kasdin report and attempted to streamline them
  - k. Once the policy was redone the EC went back to make sure fundamental events could still take place
  - l. EC had the opportunity to ask Jeremy, Naomi and Rabbi Goldenberg to explain or elaborate on specifics of the policy
  - m. EC's alternative document was drafted by Bob, Naomi and Gil - it was not something the entire EC agreed upon.
  - n. It was mentioned that one should not look at both reports as different but as complementary. The Kasdin report didn't explain how to make room rental decisions.
  - o. One Board member applauded the committee for going beyond its charge
  - p. EC's report tried to make a check list from the Kasdin report
  - q. EC policy

- i. Page one, paragraph two - "What if Hadassah wanted to rent?" The EC did not look at any one specific organization.
- ii. "Could a Hadassah non-congregant ask for a room rental? Could a J Street non-congregant rent a room? Number six is confusing."
- iii. Page two, number one - "We should amend in-house paragraph regarding chairs of committees."
- r. VP of Programming determines content of events and speakers; it's not a veto
- s. "What did the EC change from the original document?" The "what if" not the "who" needed to be addressed. The original report needed to be simplified as well as making vague terms more direct
- t. "The two reports are complementary but there are some substantial differences. Page four, part D is all about Israel. There are "red lines" from both reports but more so in the EC report. There are vague words in the EC report. The phrase "discriminates against citizens of Israel" is a concern because this language will exclude J Street." Someone commented that the whole section is vague. Another stated that the entire document needed rephrasing as well as needed to be more direct.
- u. "Isn't the whole discussion about one thing: if J Street can come into TJC or not? This is what the main concern is for the majority of people."
- v. "It's a policy that needs to be written so we can get a recommendation to the EC."
- w. "It's more than J Street. It's not just about J Street. I don't want this institution to get in legal trouble. I agree that J Street was a catalyst but not the whole reason for this policy. We need criteria to follow."
- x. "According to the EC report, we will not rent rooms to 501c4s. Could AIPAC have a program at TJC?" The answer is that it cannot rent space but can ask for a program.
- y. "I'm interested to know other opinions of other professionals regarding 501c3 and 501c4s. We need to make sure all that Jeremy said is actually true."
- z. "Some lawyer needs to give us a signed opinion of what is legal and what is illegal."
- aa. "The tax question needs to be addressed!"
- bb. "A programming policy is needed!"
- cc. "A programming policy was written in 2009." This could be one of our options."
- dd. Monitoring and guidelines are needed during possible controversial events. There should be integrity of the process. There needs to be control because some people can be awfully rude to speakers or those listening to the speaker.
- ee. "VP of Programming should not have the sole decision-making but it should be discussed with others."
- ff. It was suggested to the EC to bring outside people in to moderate events. "Add a line into the document, 'We value diversity of opinion.' We can't cede control to the organization of our facility. The problem is that we don't have control once another organization advertises. We should not have a moratorium. We need a matrix."
- gg. Judi said that she is working on a written policy to be given to all organizations.
- hh. Miki - integrity of the process - people are so rude to speakers - we need control and monitoring
- ii. "We are doing a disservice to ourselves, others and our children because we have had Israeli programming because of a moratorium.

11. 9:53 - 10:00 pm - Rabbi Feldman offered his opinion about Room Rental so to paraphrase in as few words as possible: Rabbi Feldman would not invite J Street into his home so he would not invite them into TJC. However, Rabbi Feldman will respect the decision made by the Board and will work to get others to support it as well.

Meeting adjourned 10:03 pm.