

## TJC Board Meeting April 24 2014

Meeting Started 7:30pm

1. New TJC Graphics were handed out by Amy Rubin for review by the board. The aim is to have consistent branding, distinguished identity, business cards will have the same look on the front and the back will identify the religious school, ECE or other TJC function, also similar graphics will be used in the newsletter, stationary gets a fresh look consistent with The Jewish Center logo.
2. The AJC will hold a dinner honoring congregational Rabbi's including our own Rabbi Adam Feldman on May 29, 2014. Naomi asked for good representation from TJC at the dinner which will be at B'Nai Tikvah.
3. Gil discussed our policy regarding schul business on Shabbat/Yomtov. Gil requested that we avoid schul business on Shabbat and Yomtov.
4. Update on By-laws review committee by Marc Citron. Recommendations include mandatory audits of all bank accounts, restructure of the nominating committee. This package will come to the ECE, then go to the board, and eventually go to a congregational vote in the fall of 2014. Marc reminded us the committee only makes recommendations, the board and congregation decide what we will do. Gil mentioned he is working towards making the board smaller. This is something Gil can do without a bylaws change but he wanted to talk with the board about it.
5. Update on the long range planning process by Moshe Margolin and Marc Citron. They thanked the board for their input at our last working session in March 2014. There was a feeling that came out of that work session that we need to get a better handle on what the congregation needs, what it is getting, and what the communal needs are. They are forming a working group (headed by Edie) to ascertain feedback from our congregants.
6. D'Var Torah – Rabbi Feldman – Normally we have the D'Var Troah at the start of the meeting but this time we waited until sundown so we could all participate in counting the Omer. The Rabbi is going to teach us about counting the Omer. He handed out a document that shows how counting the Omer will possibly appear in the new conservative synagogue siddur. Hazzan Dulkan is serving on the committee creating this siddur. We performed the mitzvah of counting the Omer. The Hazzan asked us to look through the handout and use it at home, and she asked us to share our thoughts with her.
7. Update on the room use policy committee – Gil received an email from a president from another synagogue lamenting the role of the president. The board received a letter urging us not to allow J Street from a number of concerned congregants. The committee is ready for more congregant input. They plan to hold a 3 hour meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> to allow our congregants to come to the committee and say whatever it is they need to say. Lori Feldstein asked how it would work. Congregants are getting a 5 minute time slot. The committee is also accepting emails. Naomi asked if EC or board members could attend. Gil said the answer is no but he will ask Jeremy.
8. Gil addressed the email we received today as a petition against J Street. Gil intends to let the committee finish its work before deciding anything. When their recommendations come before

the board, the board will have any source of information it needs to make its decision. Melissa Hager mentioned that the way the letter is written seems to be one sided. Gil said this is one piece of information concerned. Melissa said J Street has been set up as the straw man, which makes it difficult to have an open discussion. Melissa thinks that this will limit open discussion. Gil said he tried to not turn this issue into one side against the other in his Kol Nidre speech. Melissa said she has no problem with the letter or the position. Randy asked if Melissa meant the issue is bigger than one group. Melissa seemed to indicate that the decision is bigger than any one group. Jeremy is trying to come up with an approach that is not organization focused. Whatever we come up with it will be the board's decision. Gil would like to have this come before this board before May 30<sup>th</sup>. Herb Horowitz mentioned that the Israel today is not like the Israel of 1948 or the 1960's, the young people are different. Gil said his job is to be mindful of what is best for this congregation and he doesn't have the right to take sides on this issue. Gil asked us to keep an open mind. Gil wants us to consider a broader amount of Israel education, to see more sides of Israel, technological, social, and other aspects.

9. Budget 2014-2015 – Joel Reichbart – presented the budget for the board's consideration. The EC struggled to come up with a balanced budget. The staff has done a good job of managing expenses this year. There is a projected deficit for this fiscal year but Joel is not worried about it because there is \$30K budgeted for future expenses (that hits this years operating results) to bring our capital reserve up to \$363K. Joel walked us through the 2014 -2015 budget. To offset a projected loss of 22 members we have proposed a 2.5% increase. Amy Zacks mentioned that before we have special fundraising projects we must meet the annual fund goal. Religious school deficit is in line with previous budgets. The ECE budget assumes T'Chellet class will be included in next years operations. There are only 3 students enrolled in T'Chellet and we are not sure we will get additional students. Therefore the conclusion is the T'Chellet class is not sustainable. Our dilemma was when to tell people about the decision. The fact that we only have 3 classes to talk about does not show a good trend for the ECE. Josh Zinder said we need to think about whether to have the school or not, we shouldn't just cut a class here or there. Camp is also trending down, only 9 campers have enrolled and we don't anticipate more. By April 30<sup>th</sup> we have to make a decision about the camp.

#### 10. Executive Session

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.