

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

Board Meeting Attendees: Naomi Perlman, Fred Appel, Gil Gordon, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Naomi Richman Neumann, Moshe Margolin, Steve Hudis, Michael Bloom, Edye Kamenir, Judi Fleitman, Audrey Straus, Nicole Soffin, Ginger Schnitzer, Stephanie Will, Michael Feldstein, Jonathan Gershen, Barak Bar Cohen, Elana Sullá, Steve Hubert, Linda Grenis

TJC Congregants in Attendance: Linda Meisel

TJC Staff Attendee: Rabbi Adam Feldman, Debbie Orel

1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Board meeting of December 12, 2016

A motion was made by Naomi Richman to accept the minutes. Seconded by Steve Hudis. The motion passed unanimously.

3. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) The President thanked all the organizers of the shabbat evening event of the previous Friday, involving a service in the main sanctuary and an Italian dinner thereafter.
- (b) The President reported on recent email exchanges among congregants concerning both TJC's negotiations with HJD and the shul's financial situation – and the petition signed by a hundred congregants for a congregational meeting this coming Sunday February 5.
- (c) She emphasized the importance of reassuring the congregation, and in particular the bar and bat mitzvah families.
- (d) She discussed the tentative plans for a fundraising soiree on April 1st honoring Jesse and Marissa Treu and whether in light of recent events the planning for the soiree should proceed. Serrets, Meisels, and Pollards are to co-chair this event.

4. Planned soiree (Linda Meisel)

- (a) LM reminded the Board that the congregation voted in favor of this event at the last congregational annual meeting, and a budget line was created for it in the current FY.
- (b) LM recommended that the event proceed and that the Board lead by examine by buying tickets, attending, or otherwise showing support for the event. Tickets are \$180 per person, \$360 per couple. Ads may also be purchased.
- (c) The program for the tentative event was briefly outlined. It was stressed that a decision to go ahead with this event on the proposed date must be made immediately, as practical arrangements must be made (invitations must be sent out, etc.).

- (d) Discussion about LM's presentation ensued. Board members expressed support for the event; several expressed confidence that the community will come together successfully for this event notwithstanding the recent controversies within the congregation. It was also suggested that the Board's response to the current crisis will determine to a great extent how successful this fundraising event will be. Some Board members expressed concern that if the April 1st date for this event proceeds and recent events discourages many congregants from participating, low attendance would embarrass the honorees – an outcome to be avoided.
- (e) The unanimous decision of Board members assembled was to proceed with the event. The President promised to convey the decision to absent Board members and will attempt secure unanimous Board support for the event.

5. Administration report (Naomi Perlman, Debbie Orel)

- (a) Report on plans to contract with PSEG for conversion of all electrical lighting to LED bulbs, replacement of all electrical furnaces – with PSEG covering 70% of all costs under a NJ energy program and TJC responsible for the remaining 30%. The tentative plan is to have this work done in spring '17. TJC's 30% payment is not "out of pocket" for the shul but rather comes from energy savings.
- (b) Live streaming of shabbat services: equipment has now arrived, staff is undergoing training to operate the equipment. Installation to follow, along with announcement to the congregation and addition of the streaming option on TJC website. The service goes live in the next 2-3 weeks.
- (c) A consulting firm has been engaged to write a report to advise the shul on its capital reserve needs.
- (d) A maintenance request form system has been developed for both TJC and the U-League facilities.
- (e) Debbie Orel is also working with congregant Sarah Corn on a new branding initiative. New email, flyer, and newsletter templates are being developed, with the goal of having a more visually appealing and unified look. The shul's website requires retooling and DO identifies this as a priority.

5. Financial Report (Jonathan Gershon)

- (a) Jonathan presented highlights of the shul's current balance sheet and gave a report on the current state of the 2016-17 budget.
- (b) Membership numbers and status of membership dues (paid up, partly paid, etc) were discussed.

6. Long Range Planning Update (Edye K)

- (a) LRP committee made a presentation to clergy and staff earlier this month.
- (b) LRP committee is also working on new ideas for new revenue streams and wishes to involve the Board in a brainstorming session on this topic at the next Board meeting.
- (c) There was confirmation that the LRP will not be discussed at the upcoming congregational meeting on February 5th.
- (d) The committee is working on the development of two documents: a detailed plan and a more executive summary with the highlights.

7. Clergy Report (Rabbi Feldman)

- (a) Reported on a recent meeting with the approximately 25 Vav parents. A presentation was made about the bar-bat mitzvah program by the Hazzan, Debbie Orel, and RAF.
- (b) RAF mentioned that he and his family will be in Israel during most of the month of April (4/2-4/25)– a mini sabbatical during Pesach and for celebration of his son Elan’s bar mitzvah.

8. Executive Session

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

8. Adjournment

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting at 11:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel
Recording Secretary