

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
The Jewish Center of Princeton  
Sunday, March 22, 2015**

**Board Meeting Attendees:** Moshe Margolin, Joshua Zinder, Evelyn Grossman, Nancy Lewis, Jeanette Timmons, Ginger Schnitzer, Susan Kanter, Naomi Perlman, Rebecca Sarett, Dan Brent, Marc Wisotsky, Melissa Hager, Alexandra Bar Cohen, Fred Appel, Harry Cummins, Jen Black, Randy Brett, Martha Friedman, Jonathan Gershen, Judi Fleitman, Polly Strauss, Michael Bloom, Helaine Isaacs, Nicole Soffin, Gil Gordon

**TJC Clergy Attendees:** none

Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm by President Gil Gordon

Thank you to Nancy Lewis for her efforts in organizing the recent JCW Shabbat service.

**1. Approval of February Minutes**

A motion was made by Randy Brett to accept the minutes. Seconded by Moshe Margolin. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

**2. Religious Affairs/Clergy report** (Jeanette Timmons representing Religious Affairs & clergy)

- (a) Several upcoming events in March, April, and May were mentioned, including an Eggar Shabbaton during the weekend of March 27-29/15, the Passover schedule, an April 26<sup>th</sup> Yom Ha'Shoah program, and a musical program on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Details are available in the March and April newsletters.

**3. Finance Update (Marc Wisotsky)**

- (a) Projecting a deficit of b/t \$10-20k for the current FY (which ends May 31/15). Due to several factors: lower than budgeted income from ECE, unexpectedly high snow removal expenses, unexpected staff overtime costs, and uncollected dues & tuition from congregants.
- (b) Next year's budgeting is underway now.
- (c) Extended discussion of urgent expenditures for next FY with respect to driveway repair and repair of paving stones and correction of sinkholes in front of building. Jonathan G reported on his inquiries in this area. Repairing the sinkhole issue may cost upwards of \$130k. Most likely a JC contingency/emergency fund will be used given the urgency of the work.
- (d) Salary negotiations with Head Rabbi is ongoing. Should be concluded in next 3-4 weeks.

**4. Long-Range Planning Update (Josh Zinder/Moshe Margolin)**

- (a) Moshe Margolin reported on the initial response to the Congregant Survey, which is available on-line and which is being mailed out in hard copy to the congregation. There was an initial flurry of responses – 164 – to the online survey, representing approximately 15% of the membership. Moshe and Josh would like to see a response rate of at least 30%. Due date for congregant replies is April 19/15. Moshe and Josh expect to report on the survey responses in May/15. They suggested that Board phone calls to congregants to urge participation in survey would be desirable. Discussion ensued.

**5. Update on ECE status and proposal for negotiation with U League Nursery School (Susan Kanter/Ginger Schnitzer)**

- (a) Susan and Ginger provided an update with aid of a Powerpoint presentation. (Digital file of this presentation will be available to the Board with these minutes.) TJC's ongoing commitment to Jewish pre-school education was emphasized. Current ECE enrollment for '15-'16 is 14 and there are hopes that the number will reach 18-20. Discussion on enrollment projections ensued.
- (b) The status of U League as a secular nursery program was clarified and the nature of U League's program was explained.
- (c) Direct negotiations with ULNS has not yet begun. Susan and Ginger have not had direct contact with ULNS for five months. However ULNS's continued interest in proceeding with negotiations was confirmed and ULNS has made it clear that an arrangement with TJC is their first choice, even as they pursue two other viable options.
- (d) Susan and Ginger presented the proposed three-page "term sheet" that will be the basis for negotiations with ULNS for a rental that would start September 2016. Hard copies were distributed at the meeting; a digital file will be distributed to Board members with these minutes. Questions were posed about particular elements of the term sheet and much discussion ensued.
- (e) Gil proposed changes to Term Sheet (NB: the corrected version of the Term Sheet is being distributed with these minutes). Motion by Moshe Margolin to approve the Term Sheet as modified. Seconded by Janette. Vote was unanimous in favor with one abstention.

**6. New Business**

- (a) TJC involvement at 'Communiversality' 2015 was explained.
- (b) Announcement of Israel Day parade, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Gill adjourned meeting at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel

Chair, Adult Education