

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at
The Jewish Center

Board Member Attendees:

Gil Gordon, Randy Brett, Josh Zinder, Russell Feder, Michael Bloom, Nicole Soffin, Amy Zacks, Evy Grossman, Jonathan Gershen, Harry Cummins, Dina Shaw, Naomi Perlman, Jeanette Timmons, Polly Strauss, Jerry Neumann, Miki Mendelsohn, Fred Appel, Bob Garber, Susan Kanter, Jen Black, Ginger Schnitzer, Melissa Hager, Joel Reichbart, Judi Fleitman

Clergy Attendees:

Rabbi Adam Feldman, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Gil Gordon

A. Good and welfare:

1. Will Byne's family sent a thank you to TJC in appreciation of our gift after Will's brother's death.
2. Princeton Community Housing sent a thank you letter to TJC in appreciation for our annual donation for holiday gifts for their residents.

B. Minutes

1. The minutes of the November 2014 meeting were read. A motion was made by Susan Kanter, seconded by Bob Garber, to approve the minutes as revised. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
2. The minutes of the December 2014 meeting were read. A motion was made by Ginger Schnitzer, seconded by Harry Cummins, to approve the minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

C. Rabbi's Report

Rabbi Adam Feldman announced the following events:

January 30 and 31– Shabbat Shira

February 13-17 - National Leadership Conference for Song Leaders (a boot camp), which Hazzan Dulkan organized

March 4 – Purim Megillah reading

March 7 - Purim Carnival - titled "It's a Circus"

March 27-28 – Egger Shabbaton (Rabbi Eddie & Meryl Feld presenting)

April 26 – Yom HaShoah observance

May 10 – Cantors' Concert - titled "Divas on the Bima"

March 7 – Purim carnival – “It’s a Circus”

Spring, 2016 - Hazzan Dulkan is planning to lead a congregational trip to Israel. Details will be announced at a later date.

D. Administration Report made by Jonathan Gershen, VP Administration and Membership

1. The need for the Board to approve the clergy's parsonage allowance for 2015 was explained by Randy Brett. A motion to approve the parsonage allowance as proposed by the clergy was made by Jonathan Gershen, seconded by Dina Shaw. The motion passed and the clergy's respective parsonage allowances were accepted by the Board.
2. Joe Hermann, Interim Director of Administration, has given notice and will leave as of February 6 but will stay on part time at two days/week for a few weeks. An ad for job ran last month, a search committee was formed, 25 candidates submitted resumes, the search committee reviewed applications and has narrowed down to 4-5 candidates to be interviewed. Up to three finalists will be presented to the President and others for final evaluation and a hiring decision. The search committee hopes to have someone in the job by March.
3. There was a discussion of how various issues will be handled in the interim. Board and committee members must get information regarding event date, any need for custodial services, catering requirements, and other needs to Joe before he leaves so it can go on master calendar.

E. ECE Discussion led by Gil Gordon

1. ULeague (UL) is still interested in coming here but we need to confirm our intentions soon. They are looking at other facilities
2. Susan Kanter reported we have 27 kids in ECE now, 12-15 will remain next year at best.
3. Yad B’Yad will start next month - will only generate 3-6 children.
4. Two area pre-schools are or already have closed and this may generate more students – will be placing signs in area to advertise ECE.
5. Numbers are not good but it is still early in the year, although Gila doesn’t think we will end up with more than 25 total for 2015-16 school year.
6. RE: ECE and use of building by ULeague:
 - a. NJ regulatory agency is fine with shared building use with configuration as proposed (ECE on first floor, UL on ground and second floors)
 - b. ULeague will have room for up to 88 students on any given day, with ECE having room for up to 63 students.
 - c. UL will have to have their license transferred to our location.
 - d. Fire inspector is okay with proposed building arrangement.
 - e. Zoning in Princeton: if we rent space to another entity, we will need an administrative waiver from our current authorization. If we do not get the waiver, TJC will have to apply for a zoning variance – which would take considerable time and expense.
 - f. Per Gil, we need to identify process for making final decision regarding the long-term future of the ECE and our willingness or lack of willingness to financially

support Jewish ECE in that form. We intent to continue with our school for as long as it is viable.

- g. General discussion regarding future of ECE, what role should TJC play in pre-school education of Jewish children, need not to let UL go somewhere else, concerns of current ECE parents, number of current students whose families are members of TJC.
- h. More information to be provided at future Board meetings.

F. Financial Report – Joel Reichbart

1. We are ahead of last year on dues and Annual Fund collections
2. Expenses are in line with projections
3. Religious School and ECE expenses outpacing revenue and ECE will show loss for year – not anticipated
4. Annual Fund – lagging behind last year but it is anticipated that it still will meet budget for the year
5. Budget included \$20K for a fundraising event; may not generate as much money as anticipated
6. We need to have congregants make Annual Fund pledges – especially those who have not renewed from last year or have given significantly less; this is where our efforts will be targeted for the remainder of the year.
7. Camp will not be held this year due to low enrollment
8. Overtime for administrative/non-exempt staff – not budgeted but will need to be paid to comply with wage and hour laws (overtime pay). This includes retroactive payments for last two years plus payments now and going forward.
9. Endowment Fund not yet funded but the account has been established with Jewish Community Foundation. Joel has to complete required forms and documents.
10. Evy Grossman suggested that all future gifts not otherwise designated be put into the Endowment Fund. This would apply primarily to the Life and Legacy program “promises” and bequests from other congregants. Per Joel, a plan will be proposed to the Board at the February meeting

G. Hazzan Dulkan:

1. Reported on revised B’nai Mitzvah program design and manual (see attached PowerPoint program presented at the meeting)
2. May 17 – 1st annual Chesed Fair will be held.

H. New Business

1. Jerry Neumann
 - a. February 8 program on Religious Pluralism in Israel – speaker Rabbi Robert Golub

- b. April 19 – Yom HaAtzmaut celebration at TJC with parade in Princeton & musical entertainment (and food too) - congregants are encouraged to get involved in planning and helping out (school will play a role in this too)
2. January 29 at Dina Shaw’s house – new/prospective member event – ten families anticipated – Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan, Neil, Gila and Gil will be there to meet potential and new members.

I. Additional Good and Welfare

1. Zoe Lieber Lewis Goldman’s baby naming ceremony at “TJC South” (Germantown Jewish Centre) was held earlier today.
2. Moshe & Judi Margolin and Sarah & Jason Korn welcomed new family members (grandson and daughter, respectively)

J. New Business

1. Josh Zinder described process for identifying long range planning issues after initial plan presented last year to Board
2. Survey sent out to Board for comments and the survey has been revised. Will be distributed to congregation in early February – much work will be needed to process the responses and create final document

K. Motion to adjourn: Bob Garber, seconded by Russ Feder

Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Randy Brett

Randy Brett
Trustee

See attached PowerPoint presentation