

TJC Board of Directors Meeting

November 23, 2014

Attendance: Jen Black, Dan Brent, Randy Brett, Denise Cheskis, Harry Cummins, Judi Fleitman, Martha Friedman, Barbara Gantwerk, Bob Garber, Jonathan Gershen, Gil Gordon, Melissa Hager, Nancy Lewis, Moshe Margolin, Jerry Neumann, Naomi Perlman, Ginger Schnitzer, Dina Shaw, Polly Strauss, Nicole Soffin, Jeanette Timmons, Suki Wasserman, Marc Wisotsky, Amy Zacks, Josh Zinder

Vice Chairs: Evy Grossman, Helaine Isaacs, Miki Mendelsohn, Michael Bloom

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(Regular Board Session)

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Guests: Phil Carchman, Marc Citron

1. By-laws Review Committee - began 8:31 pm - Phil Carchman and Marc Citron
 - a. Seven subcommittees were formed during this revision process of TJC's By-laws
 - b. Marc wanted to emphasize that "the by-laws are a roadmap for governance; they are not intended to micro-manage."
 - c. The President's term of office was a contentious decision - with the utmost respect amongst all members
 - d. Most dramatic change is the new office of President-Elect (1-year term). This allows for continuity in the succession of leadership. It's a "grooming process."
 - e. "What's the responsibility of the President-Elect - to nominate a Board and then everything else is up to the President?"
 - f. It was mentioned that someone cannot hold two positions during the same term
 - g. "This new position will allow the next person to learn the ropes and hopefully demonstrate inadequacy."
 - h. Staggering of elections of Vice Presidents is also another big change to the by-laws
 - i. Major concern was the size of this Board and wanting to reduce the size
 - j. It was suggested to use the Board's advice to determine which committees remain as Board positions and if some committees can join together.
 - k. Phil wanted to make sure it was clear that this is still a working document
 - l. Page 7, Section 2 - "shouldn't be in the by-laws." The Board can decide to take it out or leave it in
 - m. Absentee or proxy voting - we should be able to do this by now via technology
 - n. Nominating Committee, including the immediate past President, should be increased to nine members (instead of seven) with Board representation as well as congregants. This broadens the contingency representing the TJC community.

- o. Pages eight through eleven - when looking at the red lines, it empowers the Vice President of Religious Affairs and changes Article 12.
 - p. Marc - something missing - minutes distributed to the congregation Section 5 Article 7
 - q. It was encouraged to codify that the Board does not see salaries!
 - r. Discussion concluded at 9:08 pm.
2. December 14, 2014 Board meeting - determine changes for Nominating Committee
 3. Gil wanted to get a sense of how people felt about the President-Elect position - it was fairly positive
 4. New business - a Board member asked why J Street was denied a program at TJC in mid-December
 - a. Motioned that the Board vote to allow J Street to hold a program here at TJC and it was seconded
 - b. Under the Guidelines Commissions, the Vice-President of Programming is obligated to make a decision and if he/she needs advice then he/she can take it to the Executive Committee, not the Board
 - c. "Are we {Board members} allowed to vote?"
 - d. Gil explained the Guidelines Commission guidelines
 - e. "What did the Executive Committee deny?"
 - f. Gil explained the J Street proposal/application
 - g. An EC member said that the applicant can appeal the Executive Committee decision and the Executive Committee can reconsider their decision
 - h. "Can we vote to support the application?"
 - i. "Why was it voted down? There is no adequate answer! Please, someone tell me why this application was voted down. I need to have an answer! Why was it voted down?"
 - j. An EC member attempted to explain how painstaking it was discussing the program application as well as all of its implications in great length and then voting by secret ballot.
 - k. Gil: "What do we do now? Does the Board want to vote to overturn the Executive Committee's decision?"
 - l. "I want to take an open vote to overturn the EC decision."
 - m. An EC member stated that there are options; one is to take away the authority of the EC to make the decision for this one time or for the authority to be taken away from the EC from here on out
 - n. "Submit the appeal."
 - o. "I don't understand how we can not hear other viewpoints."
 - p. It was motioned to amend or rescind the EC's power - then the motion was withdrawn
 - q. It was restated that there are two options: vote to withdraw the power from the EC to make decisions for this immediate issue at hand or to withdraw power from the EC indefinitely
 - r. Gil asked if anyone wanted to entertain a motion to get the application reconsidered?
 - s. An EC member expressed dissatisfaction about asking the EC to reconsider their decision
 - t. A separate EC member stated that this is a delegation of the Board to reconsider the EC's decision
 - u. A third EC member said, "I don't take affront to this objection of the EC decision."
 - v. A fourth EC member stated, "I'm interested to hear the Board's decision. Let us all consider working together instead of fighting it out. We deserve each other's respect."
 - w. A fifth EC member "echoed" the above statement
 - x. "We need to move on."
 - y. "The Board's job is to nourish this congregation's knowledge."
 - z. "Why can't the Israeli Affairs Committee sponsor this program? This should not be an orphan program but go under the Israeli Affairs Committee."
 - aa. "I suggest to keep the EC's decision but be open to similar programs in the future."
 - bb. "This is a crisis and we need to end it very soon."
 - cc. "This deserves the attention as the EC's attention. We need to discuss this as a Board for an extended period of time."
 - dd. "I would like advice now to determine if a mid-December program should be accepted or not." Judi read the application out loud for all to hear.

- ee. "The applicants need to resubmit their application."
- ff. "The applicants don't need to resubmit."
- gg. "Judi as Vice-President of Programming should not be the target. No one person should be the target."
- hh. "Have the Board ask the applicants to resubmit their application."
- ii. "Let's vote tonight."
- jj. Motioned that the Board rescind the authorization for the EC to approve or disapprove of programs effective immediately and to end 30 days from this time
- kk. Vote on taking a vote: eleven in favor of voting - ten and a half against voting -- the vote carries
- ll. Vote on the above motion to rescind authorization: eleven in favor - ten and a half against -- motion carries effective 10:30 pm Nov 23, 2014
- mm. Gil said, "The Board is willing to consider a new application."

Meeting adjourned 10:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Cheskis