

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
The Jewish Center of Princeton  
January 21, 2016**

**Board Meeting Attendees:** Naomi Perlman, Jeannette Timmons, Susan Kanter, Ginger Schnitzer, Jonathan Gershen, Jon Shavel, Bob Garber, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Judi Fleitman, Heidi Shegoski, Linda Grenis, Rebecca Sarett, Alexandra Bar-Cohen, Jerry Neumann, Michael Bloom, Audrey Straus, Nicole Soffin, Steve Hudis, Dina Shaw, Dan Brent, Steve Hubert

**TJC Congregants in Attendance:** Sherry Rosen, Ruth Schulman

**TJC Staff Attendees:** Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan, Phil Nordlinger

**1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) It was moved that the amended minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2015 be approved. After a seconder the minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Good & Welfare (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Former President Kim Pimley is ill and in the hospital. Naomi sent her a note on behalf of TJC wishing her a full and speedy recovery.
- (b) Rabbi Feldman noted newest member of TJC, a baby boy born to Michelle and Aaron Bellows.

**4. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Polly Strauss has taken a full-time position at Princeton University and has stepped down from the position of Vice President of Administration. According to the by-laws, such a vacancy is filled by the President with the approval of the board. With prior approval by the EEC, Naomi proposed Susan Kanter for VP of Administration. Susan has had extensive experience in several board positions. Bob Garber moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Ginger Schnitzler. The motion was approved unanimously.
- (b) The agreement with U League to lease the school building will be finalized very soon. Transition is underway. U League planned an open house for Sunday, January 24, which has been postponed due to anticipated snow storm.

**5. Clergy Report (Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan)**

- (a) Hazzan Dulkan's report:

- a. HJD reminded the Board that Shabbat Shira, this weekend January 22-23, will feature music by teens (Erev Shabbat) and an adult choral group (Shabbat morning). Snow storm is predicted to arrive late in the evening on Friday, after Erev Shabbat services. All encouraged to attend that evening.

(b) Rabbi Feldman's report:

- a. RAF noted that he, HJD, Linda Meisel, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County, and Mark Merkovitz, Interim Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks attended a meeting with Andrew Zwicker, Assemblyman for our district, coordinated by Jake Taporek from the NJ Association of Jewish Federations.
- b. The rabbi encouraged attendance on January 26 at TJC for the interfaith program with RAF, Rev. Dave Davis from Nassau Church and Imam Hamad Chebli from the Islamic Society of Central Jersey. Each will briefly explain the basis of their religious tradition and each will take a difficult text from his tradition and talk about how we deal with it today. The panel also will be held at the Nassau Presbyterian Church, and The Islamic Center of Central New Jersey on the evenings of January 27-28.
- c. RAF noted that the new ark curtain, parochet, is here, will be installed in time for dedicating it at Shabbat services on February 6, which is also Teen Shabbat.
- d. All teens who have gone to New Orleans and Biloxi over the last ten years have been invited to attend a Friday night dinner on Feb 5 and to attend services on Feb 6. Warrenetta Banks, Volunteer Director of the Lower Ninth Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development, who has worked with our teens in New Orleans, will be the guest speaker on Shabbat morning.

**6. Director of Administration Report (Phil Nordlinger)**

- (a) Phil is working with Jonathan to prepare first draft of 2016-2017 budget. Those with budget responsibilities will be contacted to review their budget lines.
- (b) Starting to look at programming for next year with Naomi and staff.
- (c) Working on streamlining administrative procedures for staff and laypeople.
- (d) Facilities: Getting bids for improvement of the four bathrooms, two of which will be modified for wheelchair accessibility. Plan to have this done over the summer.

**7. VP/Committee Reports**

- (a) Membership (Dina Shaw)
  - a. TJC will have table at Communiversity, April 17, 1-6pm. Request for board members to sign up and help.
  - b. Potential future event: Member Shabbat for those congregants who have joined in last year.
- (b) Education (Ginger Schnitzer)

- a. Report on Young Families Listening Tour and results of survey, which had 33% response rate.
  - b. Programs planned for young families: Feb 6, Rockin' Havdalah, Purim and Passover related programs. Planning to involve young families in social action activities, which listening tour/survey indicated are important to them.
  - c. Celebration of Early Childhood Education Center: June 5
  - d. For next year need to have better coordination among committees to avoid duplication of programs and scheduling of too many activities at same time.
- (c) Programming (Jeanette Timmons)
- a. Jeanette noted all programs announced in newsletter
  - b. Mens Club (Michael Bloom): Feb 20 family event, Princeton U basketball game
  - c. JCW (Helaine Issacs): All encouraged to attend Epichorus concert evening of Jan 30. JCW Shabbat is Feb 20, contact Nancy Lewis if interested in participating.

## **8. Finance Committee Report (Jonathan Gershen)**

- (a) Review of current status of budget
  - a. Jonathan noted that current revenue reflects a typical increase due to donations made at end of calendar year for tax purposes.
  - b. Collections going forward will be relatively small, expenses continue.
  - c. Collections of dues owed has been strong.
- (b) Jonathan pointed out that we have not funded the capital reserve for two years. Current amount in reserves very low. Will resume funding capital reserve in 2016-2017.
- (c) Jonathan addressed questions from Board members about various budget lines, both income and expenses.

## **9. Budget process (Naomi Perlman)**

- (a) Naomi met with staff, is proposing change in budget process: Identify priorities as a group, budget accordingly.
- (b) Top three priorities this year: Young family initiative, Building sense of community, physical plant.
- (c) Board broke into small groups to discuss priorities for coming year, followed by brief comments on those discussions. Consensus that same priorities are important for next year.

## **10. Israel Dialogue Update (Linda Grenis, Helaine Isaacs)**

Linda articulated the goals of the Israel Dialogue Committee:

- a. Reinforcing the basic tenet that first and foremost, we are a synagogue community, focusing on the many things that bring us together.
- b. Creating and sustaining a culture at TJC where our community can engage on issues impacting Israel today, and how we relate to them as American Jews as well as developing skills to discuss these issues with both passion and respect for one another.

- c. Providing robust programs representing a wide range of views on these topics that will educate our congregants.
- (a) Helaine described all the activities planned for the Egger Shabbaton, Feb 26-28, including a board training on that Sunday.
- (b) Discussion about when to administer planned survey, before or after Egger Shabbaton. Although originally scheduled before the Shabbaton, agreement that it should be done afterwards.
- (c) Linda and Helaine answered questions about how the survey would be analyzed and data made available.
- (d) Following the Shabbaton, Committee will issue report. Need to decide how recommendations will be acted on, by board and by congregation.

#### **11. Executive Session**

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

#### **12. Adjournment**

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Milstein, substituting for Fred Appel