

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Thursday, August 18, 2016**

Board Meeting Attendees: Naomi Perlman, Fred Appel, Jonathan Gershen, Gil Gordon, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Naomi Richman Neumann, Moshe Margolin, Steve Hudis, Jon Shavel, Michael Bloom, Edey Kamenir, Phil Carchman, Judi Fleitman

TJC Congregants in Attendance: David Greenberg

TJC Staff Attendees: Phil Nordlinger, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan, Neil Wise

1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

2. Approval of July, 2016 Minutes

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

3. President's report (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) The 7-member Israel Panel Committee has been formed and news of its composition and mandate will be emailed to the congregation. It will report on its progress in the monthly newsletter. The first program organized by this Committee will be on Sunday December 4th. The Committee will continue to be guided by last spring's congregational survey results.
- (b) The Richard Fishbane Award committee, chaired by David Greenberg, is also formed. The next recipient will be honored at a TJC springtime gala. The date has yet to be determined and the fundraising goal for that evening is \$50k.
- (c) Jesse and Marissa Treu will be the main honorees at that gala.

4. Administrative Report (Phil Nordlinger)

- (a) Report on the shift towards an online billing system. Congregants who request conventional billing via snail mail can make these arrangements via Phil N.
- (b) The cracked stones in the circular parking area in the back of the building have been replaced. Barrett Paving will soon begin work to improve drainage around the building. They will also begin the work in the coming week of repaving and restriping the parking space in the back. More designated handicapped parking spaces will be added.
- (c) Outdoor and indoor lighting will be upgraded via energy-efficient bulbs and thanks to a NJ state grant 70% of the cost will be covered by the state.
- (d) ULeague has successfully moved into the school building. ULeague has covered the cost of replacement of the mulch in the outdoor playground, the cost of renovation of some of the

offices in the school building. TJC, however, must soon replace two antiquated air conditioning units in the building. One will be replaced (~\$7,000) soon; a second can perhaps wait a year.

- (e) Inside the main building, repainting, re-wallpapering, and re-carpeting will be happening in the coming weeks. A projector will be installed in the Adult Library. Bathroom renovations are being deferred for now.
- (f) High Holiday mailings to the congregation will be going out in the next two weeks.
- (g) Re: programming – a mechanism is in place to have TJC programs posted on social media in the broader community. Notices of these events are to be sent to Roni in the main office.

5. Clergy Report (Hazzan Dulkan)

- (a) Hazzan Dulkan reported on her time at Camp Ramah in the Poconos and noted the extent of TJC involvement in the camp (campers and staff).
- (b) The Hazzan also discussed plans for the last 'Shabbat Under the Stars' summer program and the High Holiday plans.

6. Report on Membership (Michael Bloom)

- (a) A primary goal of the membership committee is to develop and cultivate a sense of community, to ensure that members continue to feel welcome and connected.
- (b) Michael also discussed outreach efforts to increase TJC's presence in the community. He reminded the Board that our 'catchment area' includes communities outside Princeton (Montgomery, West Windsor/Plainsboro, South Brunswick, etc.).
- (c) Michael is organized 'parlor meetings' – at congregants' homes – for prospective and new members, which will include the presence of our clergy and members of the lay leadership.
- (d) Michael is also organizing a membership committee with representation from all demographic sectors of the synagogue membership.
- (e) He also mentioned that protocols are being developed for congregants who indicate they are considering resigning, and prospective congregants who have made initial inquiries about membership. The importance of developing firm protocols of this sort – and ensuring that they are passed along to future Membership Committee chairs and lay leaders – was stressed.

7. Report of the Director of Programming & Development (Neil Wise)

- (a) Neil gave a rundown of highlights of the upcoming programming in 2016-17.
- (b) Neil is organizing a fall welcome BBQ ('Hava NaGrilla') on Sunday Sept 18th at 4 pm.
- (c) The Annual Fund team will be led by Neil and Fundraising Committee chair Michael Feldstein.

8. Strategic Plan Update and Working Meeting (Edye Kamenir)

- (a) Edye began by outlining her committee's process broadly. She stressed the importance of a frank assessment of the shul's strengths and weaknesses, problems and opportunities; identification of sustainable growth models; exploration of alternative dues models.
- (b) She noted the importance of recruitment, reengagement of current members, and generation of new revenue streams.
- (c) Re: revenue streams – a list of the shul's assets, including land, is being drawn up by a subcommittee of the strategic planning committee.

- (d) Edye also stressed the importance of communication of the committee's work to the Board, congregation as a whole, and staff via brainstorming and parlor sessions.
- (e) Development of 3- and 5- year plans was stressed.
- (f) She anticipates the development of action plans in the spring of 2017.
- (g) Edye distributed copies of the shul's current "vision statement" and discussion ensued about the suitability of the wording of the present vision statement.

9. Finance Report (Jonathan Gershen)

- (a) Early data on FY 2016-17 were presented and discussed.
- (b) The 2001 Jewish Center Investment Policy was circulated and reviewed, and changes proposed by the Finance Committee were discussed. The purpose of the investment fund and the composition and responsibilities of the investment committee were discussed and clarified. The draft of the proposed changes was examined and slight modifications were made.
- (c) A motion was made by Judi Fleitman, seconded by Steve Hudis, to accept the revised Investment Policy (as amended in this meeting). The motion was passed unanimously.

10. New Business

- (a) The co-chair of the Adult Education Committee, Helaine Isaacs, discussed current policy regarding honoraria offered to adult education teachers – referencing in particular congregants who are clergy. Current practice involves varying amounts to each individual. Helaine outlined her committee's recommendations for program remuneration in 2016-17.

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 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel
Recording Secretary