

March 21, 2024

Board Meeting

Heidi- called to order at 7:05

RAM- Hello everyone. I took off my unicorn costume. Yesterday I put lots of costumes on during the day and I hope you'll come on Saturday night in costume so you can have some joy on Purim. At the end of Esther's story, the Jewish people were able to recognize that there was great joy. I hope we will have joy this Saturday night to hear the Megillah and we will make it joyful for all of us and our children. Come to services and to TJC any time and you will have joy and see people making community. I hope to see you all on Purim. Chag Sameach.

Heidi- we can vote on our last 2 minute meetings now.

Alexandra has some minor changes—Charlene will make those changes sent to her by Alexandra. (can we put more things in the lobby but our website is where more people go. There is a webinar that many of us use to understand how important the websites are and that they are the first point of contact. It's important to have a lot of information on the website and not necessarily in the lobby.)

Can we have a vote on January 2024 and February 2024- Motion that the minutes be approved made by Harry Cummins ; second Andrea; All in favor? Unanimous.

Edye- abstained; Tom Will abstained from one meeting.

Heidi:

Membership Committee UPDATE by Andrea Hoberman:

There have not been any new welcome bags delivered since the last board meeting. We delivered bags to all the new members. And we have committee members who made calls to touch base with the new members. I did notice that there were still some bags for new members in the coat room, so if you haven't been able to connect with the new member, let us know and we can make it happen.

We agreed we would continue to bring any new members by name to the board meeting but we can match up buddies off line. I will email the names of new members to find Board buddies.

Michael- we had 11 people delivering the bags to the new members. It's a lovely experience. Meeting the people and hearing their stories is great. Some of them said they did not get calls from the Rabbi and Heidi.

Rabbi- I know I called every single person, so let us know what phone numbers people want us to use in case we missed someone.

Jerry- We have 4 new members – all young families. They have all been called.

Andrea: I want someone to contact these people:

Shoshana Rosenberg- has 2 kids- exploratory members – Edey will contact them and deliver the bag on Jefferson Rd.

Eric Baum and his daughters – exploratory members—Andrea- I would like to take them because the kids will be in my daughter’s RS class.

Heidi- we should do this off line. Please email the names and requests to the Board and we will get volunteers via email.

Jerry- gave stats on membership to date. After resignations, we have 7 net new members.

Heidi- If the membership committee could come up with an outreach plan for over the summer that would be good. Maybe we can try to bring in new people over the summer. We can try to recruit University people; bus stop people at TJC for camp, etc.

ABC- do we have a referral program? Like if someone brings in a new member they get some type of incentive?

Heidi- good idea- we’ll discuss it.

Jeremy- RS – the Purim carnival was great. Thanks for volunteering. We had parents and kids volunteering. We continue to encourage the classes to hold social events outside of school and I think it’s going well. Carnival was on Weds. Instead of Sunday, due to Spring break starting this weekend.

ABC- The carnival was fabulous.

Jeremy- We haven’t discussed it yet, but it went very well.

Andrea- It was good to have the older kids here to volunteer and they are here on Wednesdays anyway, so it worked out well.

There was a bowling morning for the second and third graders and these social events are working very well to get people together.

Rabbi- and Jeremy- we had a lot of new people attend the carnival—people we don’t know.

Heidi- The next item is the finance dashboard and budget.

Joel: as of the end of Feb. things are ok but we have a big challenge in raising money for the Gala. The website has a countdown clock now until the Gala. Right now, we look on budget, but it’s a tough time of year to fundraise. I am happy to meet with any committee chairs to talk about your budget so we can work on next year’s budget. We must put this together quickly because we have Passover coming up and then the annual meeting.

Heidi- If you are not continuing in your role on the Board please talk to Joel about your budget so we have the right information for next year's budget.

Heidi- 75th Anniversary.

Raffle tickets are here and we are going to ask you to sell 10 tickets. We need your help in selling them.

People can pay with check ,credit cards, venmo, or over the phone.

Anybody on the Board who sells 100 tickets gets free membership next year.

The tickets that are part of a sponsorship level do not count towards the 10 tickets that you sell.

We have a script that you can use to sell the tickets. They are NOT tax deductible.

Please ask your friends to come even if they are not TJC members.

The invitations went out. It should be a very fun event.

Joel- When we give the raffle tickets out now, I need to have the numbers of the tickets that you are going to sell. I have to get the raffle numbers that you are going to sell for each person.

Heidi- If you can't sell your ten tickets then give them back to Joel. But you are responsible for the tickets so don't lose them.

Joel- when you sell the ticket fill out the left side of the ticket and submit that to TJC. The buyer keeps the right side of the ticket.

Heidi- any other questions for the tickets? Please sell them. If you can't sell them then give them back to Joel. We need to sell 225 tickets to break even.

ABC- if you believe in the Jewish Center it's easy to sell the tickets.

Joel- the person doesn't have to be here to win. Sponsors get the same lottery tickets, but that does not count as your 10 tickets to sell. I will send the sponsors their tickets directly.

We forgot to put a deadline to RSVP on the invitation, but we will update that and put the RSVP deadline in the weekly Chai Seas newsletter that will go out via email.

Heidi- The town will not let us put the chair lift on the stairs because we are a commercial building. So that project is off.

The vestibule drawings were sent out tonight. The architect is drawing up official plans tomorrow. The drawings were just very preliminary. The official plans will be ready in 3 or 4 weeks.

Joel- We did contact the insurance company and the new space will be covered for a very small increase in our insurance.

Abbey- Diane and I talk to other shuls about their funeral policies. Some won't do them at all; some only for members but not family's members. We drafted a simple policy for TJC which says that for TJC members there are no funeral charges and no charge for members' immediate families, but for non-members there is a charge. It will also be based on timing and availability of the place and the Rabbi. It would also be up to the Rabbi regarding services and fees. We will not publicize that we do funerals, but it will be an option mostly for members and their immediate family members.

Tom Will- definition of immediate family?

Rabbi- if you are a mourner for this person and need to sit shiva, then we will take care of it for you.

Abbey- basically it's a general policy.

Rabbi – it will be good to have a policy because I've had two instances where I needed to call about it because the people were marginalized, but we did it for them because it was the right thing to do.

Tom- security update

Security Grant- we are in good shape, and we are confident we will get reimbursed for the work. We are getting A public address system for both buildings and outdoor barriers to prevent cars crashing into the building or courtyard. We are trying to get invoices from the vendors, so we can pay a little at a time and make sure they are performing correctly. We have to pay first and then we get reimbursed from the Government grant. So if we break it into pieces, then it's manageable. We hope to start as soon as we get a date from the vendor and a payment plan and we hope that we will start in 30 days.

Heidi- There will be a lot of barriers around. I want to thank you Tom because you did an amazing job and got us a lot of money to improve the safety of our campus. Thank you very much!

ABC- for the Purim carnival it was great and we had a lot of security guards but there were 4 up on the hill. Was that the plan? Couldn't they have been circulating?

Joel- they were supposed to be on the corner, but we had to move everything inside because of the weather. So I talked to the security guards and asked them to spread out. I can't tell the police officers what to do but we had extra police. So, yes, they have to circulate.

Jeremy- we had 4 guards outside and we had Police going around and in the building. I was afraid of having too many police and too much security intruding in the Purim carnival. I don't want to create a stressful or intimidating atmosphere.

Andrea- my daughters always say “why is the police here” when they see them at school, and they are concerned. But when they see police at TJC they expect it and know it is necessary.

Judy- In some school districts they have Police in the schools regularly. So maybe Princeton is going that way now and there will be more of a police presence at all times..

Rabbi- The guards are the same on shabbat and for school and they are getting to know the kids by name and the guards talk to the kids and address them by name. So that is the flip side—the kids actually know the security guards and feel comfortable with them. It’s sweet. The guards watch out for our kids now.

ABC- I know that Princeton has a community day in the summer with the police and community so the people and the police are together in community. We can acknowledge them at TJC events and say they are part of the community.

Joel- we did that when the police came to TJC and brought us bagels. And, the police gave the new officers a tour of the building and grounds, so it’s good that they know the property. They come by regularly during the week and we offer them bathrooms, coffee, food, and they always say no, but they know that they are welcome here and that they are providing us great support.

Abby- if we can have the firetruck here that would be good.

Joel- yes- The Fire Dept. and Police Dept. want to work with us and support us. We had a car seat check, we had a thank you bagel brunch. It’s a great relationship. They are very much in touch with us.

Rabbi- They called me on vacation.

Heidi- maybe monthly munchies should be dropped off by the kids.

Lew- Would it be useful to tell the congregants that we “increase security when there is a big event as a precaution, and you do not need to be alarmed.”

Heid- yes- good idea. Thank you,

Heidi- I want a brief discussion about Zoom meetings. Some people want a Zoom option. I’m asking for advice.

Abby- I think there is a lot of value to be in person but if we need a quorum I think a Zoom option is useful.

Edeye- I agree. I think I would be able to attend more meetings if there was a Zoom option.

Heidi- but do you think that everyone would switch to Zoom only and then no one would come in person?

Harry- I prefer to meet in person. I think we have to get past this remoteness that people have gotten much to use to.

Moshe- I have an idea to be inclusive-- all the meetings in person are friendly and nice. I don't think zoom is conducive to being inclusive. But if we know that we are going to have to vote on a resolution then that should be Zoom option in case people really can't make it, so they are part of the decision-making process.

Edye- I think if you want to bring new and different perspectives to the Board, then a Zoom option is very helpful. Especially for people who have jobs and children.

ABC- The last couple of years we went from totally on Zoom under Randy, but then hybrid under my tenure. I did have some board members that always attended via Zoom but it seemed that many people really liked coming in person. So the Zoom allows for those who really can't attend to participate. The hybrid zoom set up is extra hard work and not ideal. There are technical issues and it's not always easy, but if we are going to do it, then you have to remember that there will always be extra work. We should message that we want you to come in person, but if you really can't there is a Zoom option.

Jerry- I think in our current world it's unrealistic to think that we can go back to in person only. I think a Zoom option is needed. The Zoom option will bring more people in.

Jane LeGrange- I second what Harry said. I prefer to come in person, but I think offering a hybrid option is good. For religious affairs we are doing all hybrid meetings. It's a little more work, but we get more involvement.

Harry- I think we should make the Zoom offer but we should encourage people to attend in person.

Heidi- OK thanks youo. Now good and welfare.
Please pick up your Shaloch Manot bag and check your name off the list.

RAM- we had a beautiful bar mitzvah and we have 3 more coming up. There are 26 next year. If you can be there to celebrate with the families it's so great. A bar mitzvah is a community Simcha so we are celebrating with each family. So please come.

Heidi- we have the main lobby set up with new furniture to promote chatting and hanging out. The other side lobby is being reconfigured with furniture and coffee so it's fun to hang out. Feel at home and hang out and meet your friends. We are putting charging stations, etc. So come and hang out.

Michael Goldin-I want to second what the Rabbi said. The kids are so poised and smart and serious about their bar mitzvahs and it gives you faith in the future. And we had two 95 year old birthdays, one conversion, and the services are just inspirational.

ABC- I want to show the board the 3 mezuzahs from the Israel kibbutz and a print from a kibbutz artist from more joyous times. The mezuzahs are burnt, and the painting is lovely. We are thinking of doing a ceremony to put the mezuzahs up in the new vestibule.

Heidi- Yesterday we had the first "Seasoned Souls" event with a lunch for people over 85. Twenty-Seven people came. Eldest was 102. Many of these people were members for many years—like 60 years. They hadn't seen each other in such a long time when they showed up they were reunited and so happy and hugging. It was so sweet. People brought their own lunches and we provided drinks and dessert. We had some volunteers and the people were so happy. It was a beautiful 2 hours. We talked to the 27 people about what they want to do. They like bringing their own lunch and they want to meet quarterly. It was a very meaningful event. So kudos to everyone who worked on this and made it happen.

ABC- and kudos to everyone who is working to reach out to all of the different cohorts at TJC. Seniors, Super Seniors, etc.

JCW Shabbat- is April 5. The announcement went out yesterday. Please come. You must register. There is no fee for dinner.

Lew- thanks to Joel and the crew who turned the building over from a Purim carnival to regular set up so quickly. You are all doing a great job.

Joel- my daughter is in Charlie and Choc factory and its opening night for a 4 week run. Thanks

ABC- Good and welfare- after the TJC trip to Israel didn't quite make it, all the local congregations agree to do one trip together to Israel and each shul will have a committee representative to work with Moshe on planning the trip. I'm excited. I'll be in Israel the last week in March with a Magen David Adom mission. Riva will be joining me for a day of that trip and we will report back.

Michael Goldin- I'm on the committee to select the next congregant of the year. We are meeting on Monday. It's a great committee and a delight to be on the committee because you get to hear about all of the great volunteer work that gets done at TJC. Please call me if you have any recommendations.

Leah Boustan: Ra'anana is leaving on May 6 -July 6 to volunteer to teach at Hebrew U for the spring semester. So I will be home alone with the 3 kids all summer. It's really exciting he gets to be there.

We moved into Executive session and then; Meeting adjourned.