

TJC Board Meeting 12/18/25

Present: Jen Black

Heidi Joseph

Moshe Margolin

Warren Mitlak

Lew Gantwerk

Michelle Bellows

Judy Kutin

Dina Shaw

Len Grossman

RAM

Abbye Cornfield

Suzanne Esterman

Polly Strauss

Lynne Ross

Brad Bailey

Rachelle Simon

Jerry Neumann

Diane Guvenis

Joel Berger

Abigail Rose

7:05 Lew called the meeting to order

AGENDA 12/18/25

I. Chanuka

II. Air Conditioning Revisit

Lew: Joel and I wanted to follow up on the presentation at the last Board meeting regarding the agreement to finance 8 new air conditioning units for our main building. This project has been in the works for over 3 years and we finally got the paperwork to move forward. Ari Meisel, our house chair, has been actively involved in all aspects of this project. We believe that

this was presented to the finance committee a few years ago and was approved. All the documents were submitted to our attorney, Scott Borsack, before bringing anything to the Board at our last meeting. We apologize that it was presented in an abrupt fashion. While we are awaiting additional bids, we wanted to share the materials, in addition to the proposal we reviewed at the last meeting, that informed our request. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to build our ability to work together collegially, to build trust, and to enhance the ways in which The Jewish Center continues to shine.

Joel: It probably won't happen until May. We're waiting for two more bids.

Heidi: This was discussed years ago. We couldn't apply earlier. I do support it and the previous Board supported it.

Warren: It seems like the program could cover more including water heaters, etc.

Joel: There's only one other unit on the other building. The boiler was recently replaced.

III. Governance

Lew: We need to act on the Governance Committee's report and recommendations. To act on the recommendations a new committee would be formed for bylaw changes and we would work for the next year to present this to the congregation.

Suzanne: A smaller board could be good. But we implement much of this already, including the Skills Matrix. I think we can keep things the way they are. Communication is the key. A smaller body would be nice.

Judy: I second Suzanne. People said the board is the way they got involved. If you limit the Board, you limit involvement. All the other

congregations were smaller and not relevant to us. Also, we have 18 here tonight so we do have a smaller Board meeting.

Len: I thought a core piece was to have a staggered rotation and people saying they didn't know about other issues suggests that is an important aspect.

Lew: Maybe we like some of the changes, but not the wholesale package. Committee chairs have expressed that they don't want to go to all the Board meetings and that is an issue. Also, is there a better way to nominate officers for the Board?

Warren: It seemed like there were a few trustees that were in the Executive committee and some who only went to Board meetings. Why would we do that?

Lew: We can discuss if we even need the Executive Committee. We need a committee to see which of the suggestions we want to implement.

Abigail: I think it's important to get input from past presidents.

RAM: I don't have an opinion on the number but I do have an opinion on continuity. That would be really helpful.

Lew: I'd like to make a motion that a committee be formed to break down the Governance report and see what we want to implement, especially to increase continuity. A Stage 2 Governance committee.

Len seconds. Motion approved.

IV. Annual Fund

\$316k last year

\$320k this year with 26 fewer gifts

15 big givers(>\$1800) from last year have not yet donated.

170/530 members donated. A lot of potential.
The budget this year was \$325k, so we are on track.
90% of Board members have contributed.

Life and Legacy. As of yesterday it was at \$567k. Six years ago, it was \$50k. We are expecting to hit \$677k with two expected donations.

V. Finance Report

Warren: There are two finance committee projects. The first is to consolidate with one bank. We have been shopping different banks for our CDs. There's an FDIC insurance limit. Using different banks protects the money but you have to shop around and open different accounts. We have missed deadlines on CDs renewed automatically. We want to buy what's called brokered CDs. Through, for example, a Merrill Lynch account. TD bank doesn't offer brokered CDs. We have our credit cards through them and they don't offer cash rewards, so we're looking at other banks for cash rewards and brokered CDs. We're leaning toward JP Morgan Chase.

Second, we have about 34 restricted funds at TJC. Some are quite old and we may not be following all of the restrictions. There is a committee to look at possible consolidation and to find appropriate paperwork. Some funds have little to no money and possibly they can be combined and consolidated.

Heidi: We looked at this about a year ago and realized we can consolidate a lot of funds and now the Finance Committee is getting back to that report to act on it.

Warren: There should be language on what to do when we've accomplished the fund goal or when it's no longer relevant.

VI. Corner Lot Update

Lew: We met with the Township planning group to get final clarification on if we're limited to the 19 units and they said no. We were encouraged to think bigger if we want to build. We also wanted clarification on the timeline. Originally it was March 15 to decide with ten years to build. That's in flux. We don't have to do anything by March 15. So there's no time pressure or obligation. The Committee met after and we're still struggling with what the best recommendation is.

VII. New Business

Joel: 24 people are confirmed for March of the Living with more interested. Getting close to our goal of 30.

VIII. Good and Welfare

Joel: Next Saturday is the 50th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah.

Lew: A time to express our gratitude to each other and all our volunteers for how many wonderful things are happening at TJC

Suzanne made a motion to approve last month's minutes and Moshe seconds. Minutes approved

IX. Executive Session

9:07 Meeting Adjourned