

TJC Board Meeting September 18, 2025

Present:

Diane Guvenis

Warren Mitlak

Moshe Margolin

RAM

Joel Berger

Dina Shaw

Lew Gantwerk

Len Grossman

Ed Simon

Lynne Ross

Rachelle Simon

Louise Sandberg

Abbye Cornfeld

Michelle Bellows

Heidi Joseph

Suzanne Esterman

Abigail Rose

Riva Levy

Edye Kaminer

Judy Kutin

Polly Strauss

Jerry Neumann

7:02 Meeting Called to order

I. Rabbi's Welcome

Rosh Hashanah is considered the sixth day of creation, when humans were created. A divine spark is hidden in each person.

II. Introductions

Each person introduced themselves and their role and addressed the questions: who am I and why have I volunteered to take this leadership position?

III. Goal setting

What do you want to be able to say about your time as a Board member when it's over, about what you've accomplished? What do you need to do to make that happen? How will you measure your progress as time goes on?

Joel: A congregant died and left 20% of his house value to TJC. Someone contested the will. A resolution of the Board approved that this issue was discussed with a draft answer to the complaint. Lew as President authorized to sign the draft and authorize Scott Borsack to represent TJC. Scott is acting as Pro Bono unless it becomes a big deal, in which case he might need some compensation for his time. There is a directors and officers policy to prevent the individuals serving from being sued. Dina made the motion to approve the Resolution and Len seconded the resolution for Lew as President to authorize Scott to represent TJC approved unanimously.

IV Leadership

Jewish Communities all over our country are facing problems that are new and complex. Security of our space, Antisemitism, our relationship with Israel, Fundraising to name a few. What are your thoughts about the Board's role in providing leadership for our congregation? How do we ensure that we are supporting the Rabbi's agenda? What do we do if we question parts of that agenda?

V. Check expectations

The Board Covenant was discussed in smaller groups. Issues raised included Covenant vs. Aspiration, clarifying the meaning of "culture of giving", how to prioritize TJC when people are donating to charities, importance of being respectful of all members and to speak with one voice

and to keep things confidential, and all other points summed up in “Serve as an ambassador”.

VI. Your questions and concerns

Lew: The Governance Committee chaired by Phil Carchman is close to issuing their final report. The Corner Lot Gang is studying the options for the empty lot and soon will have a report.

VII. Financial Report

Warren: Budget set at Annual Meeting in May. We just got \$145K from a grant in 2022. There is a possibility of paying off mortgage early. 3.99% interest rate. Will be discussed further.

VIII .Upcoming events and issues

Jerry: Religious Affairs update. Papers with outline. Thematic Shabbatot. High holiday and Sukkot schedules. Shabbat under the Stars 10/10. Goal of increasing attendance at synagogue.

Ed: Almost every usher slot is filled. Six slots still need to be filled. USCJ article about inclusive greeting and ushering guidance was passed out. Signup sheet for Reverse Tashlich for cleanup at various sites.

Joel: Signup sheet for Bnai Mitzvah. Acknowledged the tremendous work of Ronnie and Stephanie. Six guards will be doing security during Rosh Hashanah. Princeton police will also have a cruiser. We have new walkie talkies. Bimah in the center where last year’s bar/bat mitzvah kids will lead Torah Service. Second Aliyah for all 90+ members, 4th Aliyah for all new members.

8:52 Meeting Adjourned