

Hollis Hills Jewish Center
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
March 26, 2015

Board Chair Steven Roseman called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

- Minutes of the Board meeting of February 10, 2014: Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the February 10th minutes as corrected (adding Dana and Mary Johnston's names, and correcting the amount of the profit from the Men's Club Superbowl Party).

- *Committee Reports:*

Finance Committee: Eric Jacobowitz reported that we have \$45,000 in the bank, versus last year when we had \$101,000. We have had a lot of repairs. Accounts receivable are up \$38,000 over last year - to \$124,300 - with money coming in more slowly than anticipated. Accounts payable is about \$55,000.....The Cantor reported a profit of approximately \$5,000 from his second concert.

Adult Education: Eric reported that our program of Beginnings of Judaism - a video lecture series with lay leadership - is very successful. It is half done, and people are welcome to start at any time.

Ohr Chadash: Amanda Menzie reported that they need children to enroll.

Men's Club: Yom HaShoah candles have been assembled, will be distributed.

Sisterhood: Maris reported on a successful Purim Project, and anticipation of a successful Women's Seder this coming Sunday.

Paul Reich: We are down \$42,000 in Nursery School registration. It is cyclical.....We are holding a Board meeting on Thursday April 16th, and will have a slate at that time.....Bayside Jewish Center has asked for a proposal. Paul is asking the Board to authorize the committee that has been working on the merger to go forward. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously to authorize the administration to enter into negotiations with Bayside Jewish Center for a merger.

Kleinstejn Lecture: Jews on Trial - same wonderful speaker as last year.

Religious Life: No one here to report.

Member Services: No one here to report.

Green Team: Maris Blechner reported that the Green Team has had its first activity. It is an affinity group - congregation members who have an environmentalist interest. There will be a meeting in early May - to enlarge the group and make plans for the year.

Journal Dinner: Michael reminded the Board that invitations to Sol's Fiftieth Anniversary Journal Dinner-Dance, May 17th, are going out shortly. Everyone must respond speedily - because we expect a big crowd.

Question raised about HHJC becoming approved for UPK. Paul explained that us going after UPK is not really good for us, for a number of reasons.

Strategic Planning Committee: Arthur Liederman led a discussion about where to go next with the Strategic Planning work. He hopes that everyone read the report that was distributed. Bob Levinson gave him feedback on our report. They are using aspects of it in instructing other synagogues.

What this has done is have us go beyond programs - to talk about vision. What we are creating is a road map that leadership today and tomorrow can follow. The hope is that the report gave people a flavor of the elements that are required in looking at a successful synagogue. Hopefully it will give us structure. What we did was develop initiatives. Some take much less effort than others.

Everyone needs to look at the vision. Then the standing committees, incorporating the Task Forces, will work on the initiatives - when to do each, and who is going to do it. They need to be staged. We need to move from being a Jewish Center to being a community/a congregation - and providing the value of a community. The core vision is Relational Judaism. On the web, YouTube, there are three of Ron Wolfson's lectures. We have to get away from "transactional relationships."

Lifelong Learning, Chesed, Membership, and Spiritual Life are the committees to be created. Financial Sustainability will be later on. Need to add the whole Ritual Committee to Spiritual Life. All of the various Task Force members from the Strategic Planning work need to be added to the committees as well.

These should be done by June. What we will do is create a spreadsheet of all of these initiatives. That way we can easily look to see what we are achieving. The Board monitors all activity.

Suggestion: Use the General Membership meeting.

It is Arthur's hope that we use Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur - our largest captive audiences - to show everyone that the synagogue is transforming.

One goal is to re-activate standing committees. We are giving them a game plan. Everyone on the Board needs to tell Arthur which area they want to be part of - first choice and second choice - Chesed, Engagement, Lifelong Learning, Spiritual Life. The goal for next month is to create a list of the committees. There will be a break out session for the groups. We are going to encourage committees to use “free conference calls” to get together.

Rabbi Wise stated that Arthur had tremendous help: Sheldon, Laura, Michael, Avery, Nathan, Arne, Karen, Susan. He wanted to acknowledge them. Also, how about five minutes at the congregation meeting doing something relational.

Paul asks everybody to please pay the shul anything owed.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Next Meeting: April 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Maris Blechner
Secretary

ATTENDING:

Paul Reich	Stephen Roseman	Rabbi Wise	Cantor Zim
Rebecca Reich	Arthur Ajzenman	Maris Blechner	Dr. Stewart Blechner
Laura Brodsky	Neil Cohen	Sheldon Flatow	Bob Fogel
Ben Grunfeld	Eric Jacobowitz	Dr. Dana Johnston	Mary Johnston
Marty Kevelson	Dr. Arnold Kleinstein	Arthur Liederman	Alexis Ludwig
Amanda Menzie	Jerry Sandell	Dr. Ben Solomowitz	Joan Waxgiser
Michael Wolkofsky			

ABSENT:

Arne Abramowitz	Jack Cohen	Beth Diker	Gordon Goldman
Bob Gropper	Nathan Heilweil	Naomi Horowitz	Jan Katz
Melanie Katz	Shachaf Kofman	Diane Landau	Carol Lieber
Susan Meyers	Robyn Rosenberg	Ellana Sanders	Stanley Seidenfeld
Audrey Shepard	Karen Skoler	Dr. Mark Sternberg	Marilyn Teleky