



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Leila Ages, Joelle Assaraf, Kevin Barwin, Jeff Laks, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Alice Retik, Tal Scher, Ian Sherman, Samantha Sigler, Danya Vered, and Adam Zaret, Gary Viner

**Staff:** Pauline Colwin, Rena Garshowitz, Mark Gruner, Anne Read, Michel Reznick, Adam Silver

**I: Welcome – Karen Palayew**

Karen Palayew wished everyone a Shanah Tovah and called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

**II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew**

Karen advised that there was no in-camera session held at the September 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting and asked that the minutes be amended. Karen asked if there were any questions from the September 10, 2024 board meeting minutes.

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Kevin Barwin

**Second:** Gillian Presner

**Motion carried**

**III: Year 5 Evaluation & Year 6 Business Plan - Adam Silver**

Karen invited Adam Silver to present. Adam advised as follows regarding the Year 5 evaluation:

- The year was very challenging with the events of October 7<sup>th</sup> while also celebrating the Federation's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and supporting and ensuring the security of the community.
- A significant number of the internal and external objectives were met or surpassed.
- Adam identified some areas in which the objectives were partially achieved, or not achieved:
  - With respect to assisting with volunteer placement, as more agencies retain volunteer coordinators, the Federation's role will lessen.
  - The Bytown Museum display was delayed due to staff changes. The Federation continues to communicate with them with the hopes of having a display in the spring of 2025.

- It was agreed that, with respect to the Generations Trust Campaign, the evaluation would be amended.
- With respect to the Hakibbutz and Russian-speaking Jewish community meetings, the board was advised that the goal moving forward will be to bring these micro communities into the broader community.

Adam then reviewed the Year 6 Business Plan with the board with the following clarifications/ideas:

- An external consultant might be useful for assessing how the Federation currently communicates with the community and provide additional tools to enhance the current initiatives.
- With respect to micro-communities, the goal will be to continue to find ongoing ways to foster and engage these communities while working on bringing them closer to the broader community.

A fulsome discussion ensued and all additional questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve the Year 6 Business Plan.

**Moved:** Danya Vered

**Second:** Jeff Laks

**Motion carried**

Karen thanked Adam for his presentation.

#### **IV: Approval of Strategic Funding for FY25 – Anne Read**

Karen invited Anne Read to present the recommended amendments for Strategic Funding and Community Impact Grants for 2025. Anne reviewed the written material that was provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

All questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve the Amendments to Strategic Funding for 2025.

**Moved:** Samantha Sigler

**Second:** Joelle Assaraf

**Abstained:** Jeff Laks

**Motion carried**

Karen thanked Anne.

#### **V: President's Report – Adam Silver**

Karen invited Adam Silver to present the President's Report. Adam reviewed the written material and asked if there were any questions.

The Board had a fulsome discussion and all questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Adam for his update.

**VI: Annual Campaign Update – Leila Ages and Gary Viner**

Karen invited Gary Viner to provide the Annual Campaign update. Gary advised that as of October 11<sup>th</sup>, the Campaign has only raised about \$290k. There are 41 donors in the \$1,000 to \$2,500 range, and another 90 donors in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. There are 21 new donors. Approximately 84 cards have been assigned. Top donors are only now being canvassed due to the high holidays. The anticipation is that there will be much more to report at the December board meeting.

Karen thanked Gary for his update.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.