



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

Summary of Discussion

for the community

**Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Leila Ages, Joelle Assaraf, Kevin Barwin, Karen Palayew, Ian Sherman, Marci Surkes, Danya Vered, Gary Viner, Adam Zaret

**Staff:** Pauline Colwin, Rena Garshowitz, Mark Gruner, Lindsay Newman, Anne Read, Michael Reznick, David Sachs, Adam Silver, Jamie Sweigman

### **I: Welcome – Karen Palayew**

Karen Palayew thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

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

Karen asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the March 11, 2025 board meeting.

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Kevin Barwin

**Second:** Adam Zaret

**Motion carried**

### **III: Advocacy and Election Update – David Sachs**

Karen invited David Sachs, Community Relations and Antisemitism Specialist, to provide information regarding advocacy and the Canadian federal election.

David provided a slide presentation describing the current context of antisemitism as post-normalization, with extreme social harassment. While the long-term goal of advocacy is cultural change, we protect our community now through institutional change and crisis management. This includes Jewishness and Antisemitism awareness, policy research and planning, political advocacy at all three levels, advocacy at three school boards with Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association, advocacy at post-secondary institutions with Hillel and academic activists, and teaching self-advocacy to the community.

David described the election roundtable discussions hosted by JFO as an opportunity to get politicians on record for accountability and community awareness, as well as to use the time to educate them and build relationships.

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

Karen thanked David for his work.

#### **IV: Hillel Ottawa Update – Jamie Sweigman**

Karen invited Jamie to present an update on Hillel Ottawa.

Jamie provided a summary of Hillel Ottawa's collaborations with 17 student clubs and organizations, partnerships with Hillel International, advisory committee, professors, and student executive, 85 events, and fundraising efforts that raised \$16,780 during Hillel Global Giving Week.

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

Karen thanked Jamie for his update.

#### **V: Annual Campaign Update – Michael Reznick**

Karen invited Michael Reznick to present the annual campaign update.

Michael shared that as of April 5, the campaign was at \$4,761,479.

- Gifts have been received from 1,317 donors, of whom 103 are new donors
- Registration has commenced for the Dorot Legacy Reception on May 7, to which all board members are invited

Karen thanked Michael for his update.

#### **VI: Tamir Centre Update – Karen Palayew**

Karen provided an update to the Board regarding the changed proposal of the Tamir Centre.

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

Karen called for the a motion that Federation will not move forward to grant or lease the land to Tamir for the newly proposed Tamir Centre project.

**Moved:** Adam Zaret

**Second:** Joelle Assaraf

**Motion carried**

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

Karen invited Adam to present the President's Report. There were no questions from the board regarding the report.

Adam highlighted the specific initiative of a community visit from 18Doors facilitated by Anne Read, Vice President Impact, Partnership & Allocations focusing on interfaith families.

The Board asked questions regarding plans for a community visit to the Nova exhibition in Toronto.

Pauline Colwin, VP of Communications shared plans for a community screening of the October 8 documentary.

Karen thanked Adam for his report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

**VIII: In-Camera Session – Karen Palayew**

Karen invited the staff to leave and held an in-camera session with the Board of Directors.

The in-camera session commenced at 19:31 PM.

The in-camera session was adjourned at 19:55 PM.