



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

Summary of Discussion for
the community

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Board Meeting

In Attendance: Leila Ages, Kevin Barwin, Jeff Laks, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Tal Scher, Ian Sherman, Danya Vered, and Gary Viner

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Rena Garshowitz, Micah Garten, and Mark Gruner

Recorder: Sabrina Vitoriano

I: Welcome – Karen Palayew

Karen welcomed board members and called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Board of Directors meeting with an adjustment in the President's Report section.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Kevin Barwin

Motion carried

III: Young Adult Strategy Update – Michael Reznik

Karen welcomed Michael Reznik, Young Adults & Families Manager, to the meeting and invited him to present an update on how Federation engages young adults and families.

Michael explained that in 2023 a new strategy was implemented, focusing on clear and measurable goals, shifting from large-scale events to gatherings tailored to specific interests, and addressing the needs of the segment. He presented the engagement numbers for the Young Adults & Families and the Campaign Programs Results which were all very positive. Michael answered all questions from board members.

Karen thanked Michael for the presentation and his terrific work.

IV: Annual Workplan Update – Sarah Beutel

Karen invited Sarah to present an update on the Annual Workplan. Sarah highlighted some of the key points in the report circulated ahead of the meeting. She mentioned that even though the war in Israel

caused a shift away from original plans for the year, Federation is on track to meet most of the goals set out in the work plan, and expressed how proud she is of the team.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Sarah, her team and board members for their work on advancing the strategic plan during challenging times.

V: JFS Community Garden – Sarah Beutel

Karen invited Sarah to present the JFS Community Garden proposal. The board had a robust discussion about the proposed use of campus land for the project. While the project has many benefits, the board had several questions and asked staff to collect more information.

The board deferred a decision, pending further information.

Karen thanked Sarah for her presentation.

VI: Finance Report – Mark Gruner

Karen invited Mark to present the Finance Report. Mark highlighted some of the key points noted in the report, circulated ahead of the meeting, and answered questions from board members.

Karen thanked Mark and his team for their work on this file.

VII: President's Report – Sarah Beutel

Karen invited Sarah to present the President's Report. She provided the following updates to the report previously circulated to the board:

- There was a Professional Development session for board members of community organizations, which was attended by 14 people representing 7 organizations.
- Anne-Laurie Forbes started as the new Facilities Director on February 5th.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Sarah for the report.

VIII: Campaign Update – Gary Viner

Karen invited Gary to present the Campaign Update. He said that Campaign 2024 currently stands at \$4.95 million from 1,350 donors. This is a tremendous success and Karen thanked Gary, Evelyn and Micah for their hard work on such a successful campaign.

IX: Funding Recommendation – Kevin Barwin

Sarah requested to add one more item to the agenda to approve funding recommendations for Federation's Security Enhancement Fund that were received that day.

Karen asked Kevin, Chair of the Grants and Allocations Committee, to present the funding recommendations. He explained there are 5 organizations requesting matching funding from

Federation's Security Enhancement Fund that provides matching funding for the federal government's Security Infrastructure Program funding. The recommendation of the committee was to equally distribute the total budget of \$43,758 between these organizations.

All questions posed by the board were answered to their satisfaction.

Kevin called for a motion to approve the funding recommendations for Federation's Security Enhancement Fund as presented.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Danya Vered

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.