

United Jewish Federation
July 17, 2024, 7:30PM
UJF Office & Zoom
Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Michael Schlessinger, Diane Sloyer- CEO, Edith Samers, Linda Hurwitz, Robin Fischel, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Jessie Brand, Wendy Siegel, Susan Kostin, Alan Barr, Chris Maroc, Lee Soffer, Robert Hoff, Jill Kaplan, Adam Rafalowicz, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Joshua Esses, Bob Abrams, Marty Donner, Stacy Ferber, Beverly Stein, Eric Ross- Deputy Director,

Absent: Cathy Satz, David Gordon, Jeremy Weisser, Stella Cohen, Ellen Weber, Amanda Sherman

Michael Schlessinger called the meeting to order at 7:37PM

Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2024 - Linda Hurwitz

Linda moved to approve the June 5, 2024 minutes. The motion seconded by Alan Barr. Rhonda offered one correction which was to change the title of Allocations Committee to Grants Committee. With that correction the minutes were approved with 2 abstentions.

Security Update: Approval of New MOA, Michael Schlessinger

Michael gave an update of our situation with SCN and offered a proposal for our UJF to contract with CSI going forward.

Background:

Our MOA with SCN ended in May 2024. In addition to our contract relationship with SCN, SCN also entered into a separate agreement with a neighboring Federation. Since late October, many discussions were held and due to deals being made with other local Federations and lack of transparency, our UJF began to weigh other options with the pending expiration of the MOA.

Hence, UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien entered into discussion with Greenwich UJA-JCC and the two began discussions with CSI, the security organization that covers all 5 boroughs, Westchester, Rockland and Hudson Counties.

After discussions with CSI and further discussion with SCN, it is recommended that we enter into contract with CSI.

The proposal for us is that we enter into a new arrangement with UJA-JCC Greenwich contracting with CSI. It makes sense, since we are geographically close. CSI is supportive of expansion of their service to the lower Fairfield area.

The changes for us include:

1. We enter into a consortium with Greenwich
2. CSI will have cross agency contact with SCN
3. We will hire a new Director located in Stamford to support us.
4. We share costs with Greenwich – 1/3 & 2/3, Stamford
5. \$60,000 to pay plus \$20,000 from lift secure is what we pay now-
\$120,000 to pay plus \$20,000 from lift secure is the new amount
6. We may have another \$40,000 in funding which will offset some of the added cost

Next step

We will write and send a termination notice letter to SCN, with Greenwich, in response to the recent joint meeting. We will also send a factual document, in letter form, to correct misinformation received in a SCN letter.

Mike proposed we move forward and sign the MOA with CSI and that we give notice to SCN in an orderly fashion. Linda seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Financial Presentation – Q2, Adam Rafalowicz

Adam reviewed the financials for the 2nd quarter. Please see handouts in the board portal for details. We have been successful in bringing in revenue and new revenue. Grant income is up year to date, comparing 2nd quarter with year to date. Investment income is up and pass throughs are up as well. We discussed some of the areas that look over budget. Some have expenses that hit in the beginning of the year or were approved earlier. The distributions should even out.

Rhonda asked about where the money is going so we know what is available for allocations and what is not.

Adam reviewed revenue, expenses, the dashboard and cash balance. All are healthy. Edith asked to show the life and legacy money that is coming in.

Big Ideas Committee Report – Rob Hoff

Mike started out reporting that we are going to spend our money to do something to address Anti-Israel and Antisemitism. The committee met including board members and community members. There was good discussion to crystalize where the committee should focus. On Sept 29th we will have Jewish Festival of Fairfield County. It will be done with Greenwich at the Loading Dock. It's a big venue with lots of room. There will be activities for all ages with kosher food and security. It is an indoor venue so we don't have to have contingency plans that we would need if it was going to be outdoors.

Nominating Committee – Michael, representing David Gordon

After reviewing the by-laws for the nominating committee timing and composition the following nominating committee slate was proposed.

- David Gordon - chair
- Nancy Mimon – Past president
- Jill Kaplan – board member
- Linda Hurwitz – board member
- Carl Rosen – community member
- Michael Feldstein – community member
- Caryl Poser – community member

Beverly moved the slate for the committee be approved. Susan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Stewardship Update- Eric Ross

Eric sent out emails regarding the stewardship activities and has heard from about 1/3 of the board. Please get back to Eric. All events are amazing opportunities to get your contacts involved.

UJF Upcoming Events were shared. [Link to Calendar](#)

1. The Rappaport Event is September 15th at Rippowam Middle School. There will be good security there and they will be checking IDs.
2. Eden **Rafaelovich**, our new Shaliach, is arriving August 14th. We will meet her at Michael and Monica's house on the 14th. A welcome tour is planned with all the agencies. She will be continuing much of Yoav's work and of course initiating some new endeavors as well. A hosting schedule will be sent out so board members can find a date and time to invite Eden for a meal or coffee.
3. We now have an active Venmo account! (and an official name change to the correct number of characters)
4. We signed a 6 month lease with the Billboards – Stand up against Antisemitism
5. We got the Temper Grant up to \$100,000 for security for birth to 5 year old age groups.

Michael Schlessinger adjourned the meeting at 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hurwitz, Secretary

Board meetings for 2024:
August 2024 – no meeting
September 11, 2024

October 9, 2024

November 13, 2024

December 4, 2024

Annual Meeting- December 18, 2024