

United Jewish Federation
June 5, 2024, 7:30PM
UJF Office & Zoom
Board Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Cathy Satz

Michael Schlessinger called the meeting to order at 7:30PM

Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2024 - Linda Hurwitz

Linda moved to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes. The motion seconded by Alan Barr. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with 2 abstentions.

Looking Back and Looking Forward-Reflections on 2 years. Yoav Yaron

Yoav presented a look back of his 2 year experience as our Shaliach and what we can do looking forward. The Main Components of the Community 3c's of Shlichut:

1. Connections with community
2. Consistent Israeli Presence in the community
3. Community Building

In the past 2 years we have grown considerably with 110 stand-alone programs. These programs include KTTC, UJF, Temples, Teens, Public Schools, and MHWOW. Ongoing opportunities and partnerships included Temple Sinai religious school, Team Advisor Council, BBYO, JCC PreK, BCHA 6-12, Coffee meetings, Israeli committee, Shabbat meals and more.

There has been outreach in print, online, through social media, newsletters, the Jewish Voice and in person.

When asked what the next Shaliach needs Yoav said support. Support and Check ins. They will need Host Families where they can do to feel more at home and they will need introductions to groups, suggestions for programs and volunteers to help with the work.

Yoav's advice for Eden is "Keep Smiling". She will be the face of UJF and Israel and positivity is needed everywhere. Yoav will write up guidelines for Eden. These will be general guidelines as the next Shaliach will bring his/her own voice.

The board gave Yoav a round of applause and thanked him for the significant and meaningful impact he has had on us and our Stamford Jewish Community.

Campaign Update- Ellen Weber

Ellen thanked Edith for offering to host a parlor meeting in July to inform and engage community members in the work of UJF.

Based on a discussion with the FRD committee, 'UJF builder's circle' was born with the goal of looking to attract donors below \$100 annually in monthly giving. 85% of families were contacted that have given 0-\$100. 50% are never donors and 50% are small donors. They were given choices of how to direct their support to UJF like PJ Library, Security, or Israel and overseas.

Grants requests are in. Allocations Committee will meet in June. September 15th will be the big campaign event this year in collaboration with Greenwich Federation. Speaker will be Michael Rapaport which should be a big draw.

Update on New Initiative-How do we respond to the moment? Michael Schlessinger

We are searching for the right initiative for our community at this moment. Mike explained the converging situations and moments in time.

In our current moment, UJF just celebrated our 50th anniversary, we realized growth in our community and organization. We have a great balance sheet and financial strength. Our goals are to unify, advocate and educate. In the post 10/7 moment we have growing antisemitism, new threats to Israel, shifting Jewish philanthropy priorities including those in universities, reassessment among national Jewish Organizations and finally, solidarity masking division among us Jews here and in Israel.

It was recommended that we establish a group with a time line for a recommendation(s) of what we should be pursuing in the future. The group would be made up of board members, volunteers, and community members so that we get broad representation.

The strategic plan was referenced- tweak it with these concepts used as a living document

JCRC is becoming more relevant. We may just need to shift what we already do in a fresh and new way.

It was mentioned that UJF changes based on needs. UJF helps every other organization and we need to communicate that. What can we do for the community now? He suggested an initiative that would go beyond the Shaliach to enlist and learn from our Stamford Israeli community members.

Solidarity meeting post 10/7 and that some type of solidarity event would be welcome and meaningful. Federation can be a place where tensions can be worked out. Tensions that are created from a variety of points of view.

A discussion of speakers, education of various age groups, travel to Israel, etc were discussed.

Planning time is needed to execute all these events and things happen so fast with priorities shifting all the time.

A rich and full discussion continued. Mike will select a task force to take all these ideas into consideration.

UJF Upcoming Events were shared.

New Business

- All April and May events were great with excellent attendance.
- We are still waiting for our security issue to be resolved. This is whether we go with SCN or CSI.
- It's time to get a nomination committee together again. Anyone interested in being on the nominating committee should let David know.

Michael Schlessinger moved to adjourned the meeting at 9:15PM. Beverly seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hurwitz, Secretary

Board meetings for 2024:
Wednesday July 17th 7:30PM