

United Jewish Federation
November 20, 2024, 7:30PM
UJF Office & Zoom
Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Michael Schlessinger, Diane Sloyer- CEO, Edith Samers, Linda Hurwitz, Robin Fischel, Rhonda Schaffer-Maroon, Jill Kaplan, Marty Donner, Stacy Ferber, Ellen Weber, David Gordon, Adam Rafalowicz, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Jessie Brand, Susan Kostin, Robert Hoff, Beverly Stein, Amanda Sherman, Joshua Esses, Lee Soffer, Eric Ross- Deputy Director,

Absent: Chris Maroc, Jeremy Weisser, Wendy Siegel, Alan Barr, Bob Abrams, Stella Cohen,

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

Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2024 - Linda Hurwitz

The minutes of the October 9th board meeting was reviewed. Linda moved to approved the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by Ellen W. With no discussion or further corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Campaign Update- Ellen Weber

The Big Give was an excellent day and Ellen thanked all the callers for their hard work. Since 2020 we have 72 recovered donors and 48 new unique donors. To date we have raised \$826,294.29 from 427 donors. Our goal is 1.4 million and we are ahead of the past 3 previous years. Amanda talked about how important the calls are to connect to donors. In addition to the campaign other revenue ytd is \$652,129.

Finance Report and Budget Presentation and Discussion- Adam Rafalowicz

We are getting close to year end so it's time to project the budget for 2025. Last year's approved budget was less than this years proposed budget for several reasons. Most of the reasons have to do with personnel changes and security arrangements, all which were previously approved by the board. We have moved a few items below the line. These items, while they represent an expense, have revenue to offset that expense. Missions, catering, speaker fees, are examples of those offsets since coverts and fees cancel the expense. This year we added \$for committee work and an increase for security with CSI. We can also consider the CSI expense a community grant since we do get security money. JFNA dues was moved to the dues line. Salaries are up 6.02%.

It was pointed out that our 990 and Charity Navigator shows expenses as they relate to administrative costs, community building, etc. so that our community work is clearly reflected. We went from a 2 star to a 4 star rating once we reported how our expenses support community. On the revenue side Life and Legacy is going down because we are now in the Legacy Plus side of the program.

Adam reviewed the Budget and Financial Report explaining clearly how the budget was built, what the projections are, etc.

Edith suggested that the Life and Legacy income go into a revenue source and not in the annual campaign line item. As money coming in from L&L goes into the endowment now. We can only spend the interest. We don't use it every year so it should be separate from the annual campaign.

Adam made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Linda seconded it and the proposed budget was approved unanimously.

Nominations Committee -David Gordon

David presented the slate of proposed officers for the 2025 term.

President – Beverly Stein

Past President – Michael Schlessinger

Previous Past President – David Gordon

New Directors

Leslie Heyison- 2yr

Edith Samers -2 yr

Greg Waldstreicher – 2 yr

Lee Soffer – 2 yr

Margarite Felsenfeld – 1yr

This leaves one 2yr vacancy and one 1yr vacancy

Renewed Directors

Alan Barr -2nd term

Jessie Brand -2nd term

Josh Esses – 3rd term

Stacy Ferber – 2nd term

Rob Hoff – 2nd term

Linda Hurwitz – 3rd term

Sue Kostin – 3rd term

Chris Maroc – 2nd term

Chairs of Constitutional Affinities with voting power on the Board

Tara Shapiro – Woman's philanthropy

Robin Fischel - NexGen

David moved to approve the proposed slate of officers. Dinah seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

General Assembly Summary – Beverly Stein

Beverly described the General Assembly as a great meeting. It was attended by about 2000 people with music, speakers, supporters, politicians, etc. They heard from hostage families, groups talking about their Jewish Identity and keeping groups involved, especially when the war is settled. The themes were Heart and Soul with Israel, Combating Antisemitism, and Security. Diane recommends that we listen to the presentation by Bari Weiss if we get a chance.

New Business

- David Gordon discussed the JCRC. The JCRC is reconstituting itself. It has modified its mission statement to include areas of outreach to elected leaders, police, schools, and diverse communities of different faiths. The goal is to fight antisemitism and provide security for the Jewish community. David asked for volunteers and chairs for 2 subcommittees.
- Edith mentioned that The Bernie Sanders amendment to force a vote to express disapproval of Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza and to ask the president to withhold arms for Israel was voted on tonight. The vote was 18 approve to 79 opposed. Senator Murphy voted with Senator Sanders. That was disappointing and David said that Senator Murphy seems to be tone deaf to the Jewish Community.
- Dinah mentioned that Eden will start a series of virtual tours of Israel. She will be doing her first in a series of classes Dec 3, 16, Jan 9, 21. Please register.
- There are 3 scheduled phone nights-Please sign up.
 - Monday, December 2
 - Wednesday, December 11
 - Monday, December 23
- Eric mentioned 2 authors who will be speaking about Israel for lunch and learns. All require sign ups. Check the website.
- The Annual meeting is December 18th. 3 Squares is being honored and the Harvey Peltz leadership award will be given out. It starts at 6pm for dinner at Temple Sinai.

Michael Schlessinger adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hurwitz, Secretary

Board meetings for 2024:

December 4, 2024

Annual Meeting- December 18, 2024 7:30PM Temple Sinai

Board meeting dates for 2025

Wednesday, January 15, 7:30pm

Sunday, February 9th, Board retreat, 9-12:30

Wednesday, March 5th

Wednesday, April 9th

Wednesday, May 14

Wednesday, June 18

Wednesday, July 23 (social evening at the Stein's home)

Wednesday, September 10

Wednesday, Oct 22

Wednesday, Nov 12

Wednesday, December 17, Annual Meeting