



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Summary of Discussion for the Community

**Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Kevin Barwin, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jessica Greenberg, Jeff Laks, Karen Palayew, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Hartley Stern, Danya Vered.

**Staff:** Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Andrea Freedman, Micah Garten, Susan Lee, Leslie Kaufman

**Recorder:** Cibebe Rosa

**I: Welcome – Michael Polowin**

Michael welcomed the Board members and called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Michael Polowin**

Michael called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Kevin Barwin

**Second:** Karen Palayew

**Motion carried**

**III: Annual Business Plan – Andrea Freedman**

Michael invited Andrea Freedman to present the Year 2 Work Plan. As the document was sent to the board in advance of the meeting, Andrea answered questions.

The Board accepted the work plan, requesting one language adjustment to reflect the goal of improving 2-way communication between Federation and the community. As no other concerns were raised, Michael thanked Andrea and her team for their work and asked for a Motion to approve the Year 2 Work Plan, with the minor adjustment noted above.

**Moved:** Harold Feder

**Second:** Jacob Shabinsky

**Motion carried**

**IV: President's Report – Andrea Freedman**

Andrea noted the following updates:

- The Prime Minister will be visiting the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and Federation will be represented by Michael Polowin.
- After the recent outbreak of COVID-19 at Hillel Lodge, the infection appears to be contained to just one wing, and staff have isolated the two infected residents.
- Michael and Andrea had the privilege of representing Federation in a small meeting with Premier Doug Ford and other Ontario Jewish community leaders. The Premier shared his support for the community, affirming his intolerance for anti-Semitism and informing of measures taken by the government to combat hate crimes.
- Federation has submitted a grant application to the Ontario Safe and Vital Communities Program for \$100K in security enhancements for the campus.

**V: Operating Budget – Susan Lee**

Michael invited Susan Lee, CFO, to present the Proposed Operating Budget for 2020-21. The Report was circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting, and it will replace the Interim Budget approved at the May 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Susan made the following notes:

- The budget had a 7.7% reduction compared to last year.
- The major expenses come from Salaries and Benefits, representing 75% of the total budget.
- In general, there is a reduction in budgets from both overhead and program expenses since in-person meetings/events are not permitted during the pandemic period. Additionally, by design, two vacant positions on the community building team will not be filled until January.

The Bulletin's deficit is an obvious cause for concern and management has been tasked with bringing forward recommendations.

Michael thanked Susan and Harold Feder for their work on the budget and asked for a Motion to approve the Proposed Operating Budget 2020-2021.

**Moved:** Harold Feder

**Second:** Danya Vered

**Motion carried**

#### **VI: Life & Legacy – Victor Rabinovitch and Michael Landau**

Michael Polowin introduced Michael Landau, and then he invited Michael and Victor to lead the presentation.

Michael and Victor explained the concepts, benefits and impact of legacy support to the Jewish Community through the Life and Legacy program, a product of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and managed locally by the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

The Board of Directors were encouraged to consider and commit to a Legacy gift to the Federation by signing a letter of intent. An incentive program from the Foundation will provide a gift of up to \$6K in additional funding for the Emergency Campaign for Community Resilience if we meet or exceed our goal by year's end.

Michael Polowin thanked Michael and Victor for their presentation.

Michael expressed special thanks to the Foundation and its chair, Lawrence Weinstein, for their excellent work and decision to maintain the 4% disbursement this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.