



Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre

In Attendance: David Appotive, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jennifer Kardash, Linda Kerzner, Mike Shahin, Hartley Stern, Lenora Zelikovitz

Staff: Bram Bregman, Shelley Crawford, Andrea Freedman, Arie Rosenblum

Observers: Sharon Appotive, Mike Landau, Ron Prehogan, Debi Zaret

Recorder: Nicole Collett

I: Welcome – Linda Kerzner

Linda Kerzner called the meeting to order at 5:35.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:

Linda Kerzner called for a motion to approve minutes from the September 16th Federation board of director's meeting.

First – Harold Feder

Second – Lenora Zelikovitz

Motion carried

III: President's Report: Andrea Freedman

- Ticket sales for the concert launching Holocaust Education Month, a joint event between Federation and Jewish Family Services, are not as robust as anticipated, though still respectable. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- Federation has sent all victorious MPs a congratulatory letter and all former MPs a letter of appreciation for their service.
- The Women's Challah bake, led by board member Stacey Goldstein, will be at capacity on Thursday night, October 22nd.
- The program for Unity Havdalah (October 24th) has been modified slightly to reflect the violence in Israel. H.E. Ambassador Rafael Barak will say a few words and a booth will be set up for children to write letters to soldiers and victims of terror.
- Board members are encouraged to participate in the installation of Rabbi S. Robert Morais at Temple Israel on November 14th-15th.

IV: Financial Report – Shelley Crawford

Financial statements were presented through September 30th.

- Hillel on Campus is required to fundraise a certain portion of their budget, which is behind but, it is still early in the year.

- A tenant on campus is chronically in arrears. This year, the tenant is having greater difficulty paying than in the past, which is cause for concern.
- A small office is vacant at building 11 and efforts continue to find a tenant. There is a similar situation at Hillel House on Laurier with a vacant room for rent.

Overall, there are no significant variances to report (except with respect to campus) and all questions were answered to the satisfaction of board members.

V: Governance Policy Review and Approval – Debi Zaret

The governance committee was formed in 2014 and undertook the initial task of updating Federation's by-laws to ensure compliance with revisions to the Canada not for profit act. The committee's work continued, as a holistic review of governance documents and terms of reference for all committees was conducted.

- Great appreciation for the governance committee's work was expressed by the board.
- The board expressed concerns over sections 2.1 (organizational chart) and 2.3 (categorization of the three kinds of committee authority). Accordingly, those 2 sections will be revised and approval will be sought at a later date.

Linda Kerzner called for a motion to approve the governance documents as presented, excluding sections 2.1 and 2.3.

First – Lenora Zelikovitz

Second – Hartley Stern

Motion Carried

In January 2016, the governance committee will begin examining best practices to create a procedure to assess board performance.

VI: Campaign Update – Sharon Appotive/Jeff Miller

- To date, the Annual Campaign has raised \$2.5 Million, representing a 4.3% increase on a gift by gift basis.
- As part of the Annual Campaign solicitation, significant additional dollars were secured for Federation programs (Shinshinim and exploring incentivizing participation in Jewish life and social mapping). In order to accurately reflect dollars raised, a revised method for calculating fundraising revenue should be presented in the future.
- While the campaign remains strong and has tremendous leadership, donor fatigue and other significant community campaigns are a challenge.

VII High school Education task Force – Ron Prehogan/Bram Bregman

Last year, when the high school was closed, Federation launched a task force to determine if a sustainable model for high school education in Ottawa can be found. The committee's report was presented to the board and an extensive discussion ensued. Key discussion points included:

- Highly successful Jewish communities have a Jewish high school. The importance of Jewish education was emphasized.
- Strengthening the overall feeder systems is necessary in order for a high school to be truly sustainable. This includes OJCS and other institutions such as Ganon.

- While Federation has a responsibility to fund Jewish education, it is parents in the community who need to be champions and volunteer time and expertise to create a high school that will attract 50 + students.
- The task force was thanked and congratulated for their outstanding work.

Linda Kerzner called for a motion to endorse the findings of the Jewish high school task force and the importance of Jewish education.

First – Jennifer Kardash

Second – Lenora Zelikovitz

Motion Carried

VIII: Holocaust Education – Andrea Freedman

- Historically, Federation’s Shoah committee has undertaken particular activities with respect to Holocaust education.
- Recently, the Zelikovitz Centre announced that they are launching a Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship, primarily led by former members of Federation’s Shoah committee. As part of this process, for the board’s consideration, Federation and the Zelikovitz Centre are proposing a division of activities that will empower the Zelikovitz Centre to undertake several activities currently managed by Federation (e.g. educating the educators and Holocaust Education Month).

Linda Kerzner called for a motion to approve the division of activities between the Zelikovitz Centre and Federation.

First – Mike Shahin

Second – Harold Feder

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.