



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community  
Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre**

**In Attendance:** David Appotive, Lauren Bronstein, Debbie Halton-Weiss, Jennifer Kardash, Linda Kerzner, Steven Kimmel, Mike Shahin, Jason Shinder, Arlene Wortsman, Neil Zaret

**Staff:** Bram Bregman, Shelley Crawford, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman, Arieh Rosenblum

**Observers:** Sharon Appotive, Jonathan Pivnick, Michael Polowin

**Recorder:** Mike Bazuk

## **I. Welcome**

Steven Kimmel called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Steven Kimmel welcomed everyone and thanked them for accommodating the earlier start time.

Steven noted that Yom HaShoah was well attended and thanked Jennifer Kardash for her efforts in leading the project. He then introduced guests Jonathan Pivnick, Camp Director, and Michael Polowin, Board Chair of Camp B'nai Brith, who would be presenting on Camp B'nai Brith.

## **II. Camp B'nai Brith (CBB) Presentation**

Michael Polowin thanked the Federation Board and noted that this year marks the camp's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the camp is prospering. Michael explained that CBB is 100 camper-weeks ahead of last year's metric and could potentially exceed that by 300 camper-weeks. He noted that the camp is being careful and strategic with its money and is also pursuing the opening of an endowment fund with the Foundation. In addition to increased outreach throughout Ottawa, Michael noted that over the last decade, CBB has invested a million dollars in upgrades and renovations to "fix the camp for a generation". Questions were answered to members' satisfaction and Steven thanked Michael and Jonathan for presenting.

## **III. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Neil Zaret **moved** to approve the minutes from the March 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 Federation board meeting. Debbie Halton-Weiss **seconded**. **Carried**.

## **IV. President's Report**

Andrea Freedman provided updates to the circulated president's report.

- Andrea extended her thanks to Jennifer Kardash in taking the lead on this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration event which was attended by 450 people and drew positive feedback from

the community and members of the Shoah committee. Andrea spoke to the success of the Emerging Generation dinner that was held before the commemoration and the newfound partnership with the Azrieli Foundation and its work in engaging the younger generation.

- Rabbi Bulka has won the CIJA award for Jewish communal service.

## V. Grants & Evaluation Committee Report

Arlene Wortsman presented the Grants & Evaluation committee report noting that this is the second year of the two-year cycle. Arlene explained that elements of the process are being revised for the upcoming year with a report to follow. The committee has reviewed the progress and circumstances of the agencies that received funding and four recommendations were put forth:

- Help agencies develop their volunteer bank through identifying individuals with required skillsets and succession planning;
- Continue to provide professional development seminars and workshops and to assist in providing governance training for agency boards;
- Maintain ongoing relationships with agencies;
- Implement standardized funding requirements and criteria for agencies.

Arlene answered questions with respect to the evaluation process and which parameters the committee assesses to determine an agency's success or how areas of opportunity are explored. She noted that more information would follow in an additional report at the next meeting. Questions were answered to members' satisfaction and Steven thanked Arlene for presenting the report.

Arlene Wortsman **moved** to accept the Grants & Evaluation Committee's recommendations. Jennifer Kardash **seconded. Carried.**

## VI. Nominating Committee Report

Debbie Halton-Weiss presented the Nominating Committee report. Board terms are ending for 3 directors, and two names have been put on the slate to stand for election as new directors: Harold Feder and Stacy Goldstein. Debbie provided information on both nominees. Debbie also discussed the criteria for Board membership with respect to conflicts with staff versus volunteer roles with community agencies.

Debbie Halton-Weiss **moved** to accept the Nominating Committee's report as presented. Jason Shinder **seconded. Carried.**

Debbie thanked the members of the Nominating committee and announced the winners for the Freiman Family Young Leadership award, Howard Fremeth; the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service award, Jonathan Freedman; and the Shem Tov Community Volunteer award, Flo Morgan. Debbie noted that this information has not yet been circulated to the community and is to be treated as confidential.

Debbie discussed the need to provide the committees with more specific criteria to help guide deliberations.

Questions were answered with respect to nominations and Steven thanked Debbie and the committee members.

## **VII. Finance Report**

Shelley Crawford presented the finance report and asked the Board to refer to the current financial report that had been pre-circulated. Shelley noted that all business units are running favorable to budget at this time. There were no questions.

## **VIII. OJCS Financial Issues**

Jason Shinder discussed the OJCS budget noting that Federation provides \$554,000 in annual funding, of which \$60,000 is intended for the high school. With the phasing-out of the high school, should funding be maintained? Members conducted a robust discussion on this matter and several questions and concerns were raised. While serious concerns were expressed, consensus emerged to maintain full support to enable OJCS to focus on boosting enrolment. With respect to the rented space for the high school, Jason explained that OJCS has asked for a 50% reduction in collectible rent (\$45,000). Jason also noted that another community agency may be interested in renting the space that the high school occupies. It was also clarified that this resolution is for the 2015/2016 school year only and the matter would have to be evaluated annually. The needs of the school were discussed at length as well as the timing of providing the funding. Andrea provided further details on the breakdown of the funding formulas for all day schools. A consensus emerged to accept a 50% reduction in the high school's portion of rent.

Jason Shinder **moved** to accept the recommendation that Federation maintain OJCS funding at current levels for the 2015/2016 academic year. Neil Zaret **seconded**. **Carried**.

## **IX. Campaign Update**

Sharon Appotive provided the campaign update.

- Federation had raised approximately \$4.22M, a 4.4% increase from last year on a gift by gift basis;
- Women's Division has raised \$997,344 and is up by 5.7% on a gift by gift basis;
- Progress is being made in arrears;
- 2016 campaign planning continues and card allocation and Kickoff meetings will begin in May;
- Golf tournament sponsors and registration is progressing well;
- There will be a Lion of Judah event on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Steven thanked Sharon for providing the campaign update.

## **X. Other Business: Kerr property and the Integrated Living Centre**

Neil Zaret discussed an update with respect to the Kerr property. Neil noted that the two adjacent land owners have agreed to partner with Federation to approach the city in taking legal title to the laneway on Kerr that is currently preventing development.

Neil explained that Tamir's proposed use for the site would deem it a residential property which carries the highest environmental standards. Neil noted the land has not been tested since 2006 and must be tested as soon as possible to determine if the revised environmental criteria can be met. Neil answered questions and clarified the process by which the property must be certified. It was noted that the estimated cost to begin this process is around \$12,000 and Shelley and Andrea would discuss from where this amount would be drawn. The Board agreed to move forward with this initiative and no motion was required.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.