



Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Discussion for
the community

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

In Attendance: Leila Ages, Joelle Assaraf, Kevin Barwin, Jeff Laks, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Ian Sherman, Samantha Sigler, Marci Surkes, Danya Vered, Gary Viner, Adam Zaret

Staff: Rena Garshowitz, Lindsay Newman, Anne Read, Michael Reznick, Adam Silver

I: Welcome – Karen Palayew

Karen Palayew thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Karen acknowledged that this day represented 613 days the hostages had been held in captivity: the number of commandments in the Torah. To observe the significance of the day, and to honour his loss, the family of Hersh Goldberg-Polin had requested acts of kindness. The Board stood together for a moment of silence.

Karen acknowledged the desecration of the National Holocaust Monument, as an example of the antisemitism we are facing, and the need to build alliances. Karen thanked Adam for his leadership. Karen shared her supportive conversation with the Chair of the Board of Ottawa Police Services.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew

Karen asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the May 13, 2025 board meeting.

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved: Gill Presner

Second: Danya Vered

Motion carried

III: Strategic Planning Update – Danya Vered

Karen invited Danya Vered to provide an update from the Strategic Planning Committee.

Danya expressed thanks to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and presented an update on the draft Anne sent to the Board, with a portal to input questions. A special meeting will be held on June 16 to discuss the Strategic Plan and approve it.

Danya added that the Strategic Plan and most appendices will be shared with the public online.

Karen thanked Danya, Anne, and the Strategic Planning Committee for their work.

IV: Annual Report for Allocations: FY25 and Recommendations for FY26 – Kevin Barwin and Jeff Laks

Karen invited Kevin Barwin, as outgoing Chair of the Committee, and Jeff Laks, as incoming Chair of the Committee, to present the Annual Report for Allocations.

Jeff thanked Anne for her summary of allocations, including recommendations for funding in FY26.

A discussion ensued and all questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Kevin, Jeff, the members of the Grants Committee, and Anne for their work.

Karen called for a motion to approve the Annual Report for Allocations.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Marina Milyavskaya

Motion carried

V: FY 26 Budget – Adam Silver

Karen invited Adam Silver to present the FY26 Budget.

A discussion ensued and all questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Danya recommended the budget be updated, recirculated, and then a motion be made when the Board meets to review the Strategic Plan on June 16.

Karen thanked Adam for his update.

VI: Terms of Reference for Development Committee – Michael Reznick

Karen invited Michael Reznick to present terms of reference for the Development Committee.

Further to his presentation at the Board meeting on May 13, Michael expressed that he is asking to establish the Development Committee as a new strategic macro committee to ensure Federation has revenue from multiple fundraising streams.

Michael shared the Terms of Reference, in which membership has been revised per the suggestions of the Board.

A discussion ensued and all questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve the Terms of Reference for the Development Committee.

Moved: Adam Zaret

Second: Samantha Sigler

Motion carried

VII: Annual Campaign Update – Leila Ages and Gary Viner

Karen invited Leila and Gary to present the Annual Campaign Update.

Michael Reznick shared that the numbers are stable at the close of Campaign. As of June 4, the campaign was at \$4,918,057, an increase of \$58,807 over 2024.

Karen thanked Leila, Gary, and Michael for their work.

VIII: President's Report – Adam Silver

Karen invited Adam to present the President's Report.

Adam expressed appreciation to the team for their work and dedication during times of high volume.

Adam shared highlights from Federation's advocacy work.

A discussion ensued and all questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Adam for his report.

As this date marks Karen's last meeting as Chair of the Board, Karen expressed thanks to Adam for his leadership as CEO, to the professional team leaders and staff, to all the Board members.

Karen thanked outgoing Board members Ian, Kevin, Marci, Tal, and Alice and welcomed Danya as incoming Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.