

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ST. PAUL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 2018
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: Mark Adelman, Jay Baldinger, Sharon Benmaman, Alan Bernick, Lisa Bernick, Aaron Biel, Steve Brand, Deb Frishberg, Bruce Goldfarb, Mitzi Gramling, David Krco, Nancy Lane (phone), Michael Levitt, Rick Linsk, Scott Marvy, Susan Minsberg, Jon Parritz, Jeffrey Perlman, Bonnie Resnick, Mitch Rubinstein, Lynne Sanders, Polly Saxon (phone), Rosalyn Segal, Yoav Segal, Michelle Shaller, Steve Shaller, Mary Ann Wark

STAFF: Tal Dror, Rob Jacobs, Sharyn Pesses, Marilyn Ruby, Judy Sharken Simon

NOT ATTENDING: Wendy Baldinger, Rabbi Zalman Bendet, Jon Brod Farber, Charles Fodor, Barry Glaser, Karen Gordon, Jerry Helfand, Brian Kamin, Elyse Less, Sarah Levine, Charlie Nauen, Linda Nides, Ben Saxon, Michael Saxon, Marsha Schoenkin, Sally Silk, Marni Tselos, Mark Usem, Deb Weiss

GUESTS: Dierdre Hodgson, Rose Adler-Rephan, Emi Stiefel Alperin, Zipporah Cohen, Marisa Goffman, Dani Orloff, Gabbie Tselos

WELCOME: Steve Brand called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

TEEN MIFGASH PRESENTATION: Six of the eight St. Paul teens who participated in a P2G teen mifgash in December spoke about the highlights of their experiences in Israel. Their Israeli counterparts will be visiting St. Paul on March 21.

APPROVAL OF AUDIT: Dierdre Hodgson, from our accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen, reviewed the 2017 audit and the 990 form that will be filed by March 15. She met earlier this month with the Federation's Finance/Audit Committee.

- Questions were asked about why the audit failed to flag major issues such as borrowing from the Shapiro Endowment Fund, \$2.8 million in debt to JFNA, and \$496K in uncollectable pledges. Suggestions were made for improved labeling and footnotes to make the audit more transparent to laypeople.
- It was noted that last year Federation had no formal Audit Committee to review the audit before it was sent to the Board for approval. Federation is in the process of reactivating the Audit and Finance committees.
- Steve Brand said that Federation will develop a plan to repay funds to the Shapiro endowment. Also, Federation will work toward meeting all recommendations from our auditors for improving procedures and providing a monthly balance sheet to the Board.
- JFNA is in the process of writing off our debt.
- Rob Jacobs said that Federation will soon launch a webpage that discloses more of the organization's financials, budgets and projects. He will inform the Board about transparency measures being put in place.

- Rob will compile a list of apparently “fake pledges” that were submitted in prior years. Steve Brand added that we will work toward providing an honest number so we know how much we actually raise each year.
- Federation’s rent payment changed from an in-kind donation from the landlord to paying close to market rate. The audit should include a note on this issue.
- A suggestion was made to review the employee benefit plan to see how we compare to other federations.
- Dierdre said she will make the changes that were suggested, and the information will be communicated to the treasurer and Board.
- Subject to the modifications discussed, the Board voted with one abstention to adopt the audit report.

FORM 990: This form is mostly an informative narrative, and it is available to the public. Most is information gleaned from the audit. Some inaccuracies were discussed, which Dierdre said she would change.

- Rob Jacobs explained that in prior years the budget had been completed at the last minute with no documentation. This year, he has asked staff members to compile a budget for their departments, which he will compile to create a full budget. He also is forming a Budget Committee.
- The Board voted with two abstentions to approve the 990 form with modifications.

JCRC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, ISRAEL MISSION – Ethan Roberts, JCRC Director of Government Affairs, showed photos from a recent 10-day trip to Israel organized for Minnesota legislators. He then provided an overview of the Proposed 2018 Legislative Session Agenda for the Twin Cities Jewish Community Government Affairs Program (JGAP):

1. Increase tax incentives for charitable giving, and oppose proposals to repeal traditional tax exemptions for non-profits and reduce incentives for charitable giving
2. Lead community efforts to better enforce Minnesota’s Bias Crimes Penalty Enhancement Laws
3. Pass legislation to expand mental health services for non-public schools
4. Work with Sholom and other skilled nursing facilities and providers of assisted living services to ensure that reasonable regulatory reform is passed to ensure resident safety.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the legislative agenda.

MINUTES FROM JAN. 24, 2018: Approved with one abstention.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE and INFORMATION ON OUR APRIL 26 FUNDRAISING EVENT: Due to lack of time, this information will be sent to Board members by email.

INTERMEDIATE FEDERATION INSTITUTE REPORT and REPORT FROM P2G STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN Israel: Due to lack of time, these items will be held until the next Board meeting.

FUNDING TOWARD TEEN MARCH IN D.C. on MARCH 24: Rob Jacobs explained that Rabbi Allen originated the idea of sending Jewish teens from the Twin Cities to the gun reform march in Washington, and he asked Federation for \$1,500 in funding.

- Several Board members asked if this would set a precedent of taking a political position. Others see the funding as a way of getting our youth engaged in social action and social justice.
- The motion to contribute \$1,500 toward sending Twin Cities teens to participate in the march in Washington, D.C., passed, with 4 opposed.

UPDATE ON JEWISH COMMUNAL HIGH SCHOOL & COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER EDUCATION FUNDING:

- Mary Ann Wark explained that after lengthy and deep discussion, St. Paul's four education partners decided not to move forward with a communal high school.
- There is consensus on the need to review how Federation funds Jewish education in general. The Executive Committee proposed a resolution that Federation form a task force to study education funding in St. Paul and make recommendations on whether to change the funding and if so, how. The recommendation passed with one abstention.
- The Board expressed its sincere gratitude to Mary Ann for her leadership through this process.

CBRC: CBRC Chair Lynne Sanders explained the importance of populating the subcommittees with qualified volunteers, especially this year in light of Federation financial issues. Board members were encouraged to contact her if they are interested in serving.

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS: Approved unanimously.

GOOD & WELFARE:

- Sarah Levine's father passed away.
- Charlie Levine has resigned from the Board due to his new position as Director of Development for Jewish Family Service.
- Marnie Tselos has resigned from her position as PJ Library coordinator.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Mark Adelman reported that 20 people filled out Rob Jacobs' performance review form. The Personnel Committee meeting had to be postponed due to his illness, but the committee will reschedule its meeting. After that meeting, the committee will issue its report.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:43 p.m.