

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County

Board of Directors

Nov 6, 2017 7:30PM

Silverman Suite

Jewish Community Campus

Attendance: Lisa Green, Chair, Stephen Cohn, Bert Distelburger, Rabbi Paula Mack Drill, Phil Gruber, Max Kaufman, Jeff Koenig, Jonathan Meister, Melinda Levin, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, Mike Satran, Carol Schiller, Mathew Schiering, Steve Schulman, Bob Silverman, Charna Weissman, Bonnie Werk

Guests: David Lentz (Jewish Federations of North America) Richard Levin (Community Relation Council)

Gary Siepser, CEO, Rebecca Bannerman, Engagement Director

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2017 were approved as presented.

Special Presentation on Israel and Overseas Connections: David Lentz, an envoy of JFNA's Israel and Overseas committee shared the impact of Federation's grants to JFNA for Israel and overseas use. He led the board in a discussion of the underlying values represented by Federation's grants and ways to increase funds raised by using the stories of those helped and supported.

Campaign Report: The 2018 Annual Campaign has reached \$209,980 from 331 donors. This compares favorably to this date in 2017 with a \$41,220 increase in pace and 11% average gift increase.

Finance Report: Mike Satran reported that the finance committee met last week noting that income and expenses are in line with past experience and plans. The committee did note that cash was below the level held last year at this time and as a result

approved grants have not been paid in full. It was also noted that Federation has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator; the highest rating, which is a reflection of its meeting a rigorous set of criteria around fiduciary responsibility and transparency.

Endowment Fund Grant Requests:

Progress has been in promoting the Federation's Israel Journey Oct 17-24, 2018 and there have been many inquiries and promises of participation. The timing of the trip is one of the busiest periods and with the tie-in to the JFNA General Assembly many other Federations are planning similar travel. Federation's travel organizer, Kenes Tours, has advised us that a deposit is necessary to secure the blocks of rooms in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv for the Rockland group. A deposit of \$30,000 is necessary. The deposit is against the fees that will be paid by participants. It was proposed that \$30,000 be paid from the Lili Stauer Fund of the Endowment Fund. A motion was made and seconded:

Resolved that the Board makes an Endowment Fund grant of \$30,000 from the Lili Stauer Fund to be used as a deposit to secure reservations for Federation's Israel Journey. These funds will be returned to the Endowment Fund as reservations are received and Kenes Travel refunds the deposit. The motion was approved. (1 abstention)

New York State has made available grants (up to \$50,000 each) for the acquisition of security equipment and training by private not-for-profit childcare centers and private schools that are at higher risk. This summer's bomb threats against JCCs were an example of such threats and risks. A number of institutions in the Rockland Jewish community may be eligible. As these are state grants, the application process is complex and is best completed by experienced grant writers. It was proposed that up to \$5,000 be made available to assist organizations with this. The Rockland Jewish Community Campus has requested \$2,500 for this purpose. Two other Board of Rabbis member congregation based programs also may be eligible. In discussion it was noted that this sort of urgent and unanticipated need is one of the roles for which an

endowment fund is ideally suited and helps position Federation in a key leadership role in the community. A motion was made and seconded:

Resolved that the Board makes an Endowment Fund grant of \$5,000 to be used to assist the Rockland Jewish Community Campus and other appropriate organizations in applying for New York State security grants. The motion was approved.

Community Relations Council Report: Richard Levin reported that the Council held meetings with 6 candidates in contests for Clarkstown and Orangetown Supervisor and Rockland County Executive. These contests and their candidates were invited as these are contests with prevalent bigotry and anti-Semitic language by voices supporting and opposing the candidates. This is particularly prevalent in social media. The CRC discussed the tone of the campaign with all candidates and emphasized the candidate's responsibility to edit their own social media and use their influence with their supporters to moderate other social media sites.

Lisa Green, Steve Gold and Gary Siepser met last week with the school superintendents of 8 Rockland districts. The meeting was co-hosted by Ken Zabrowski and David Carlucci at the Clarkstown town hall. Andrea Winograd from the Holocaust Museum also attended. The purpose of the meeting was for the school leaders to share what is happening in their districts in reaction to increased hate speech and violence. The forum provided an opportunity for the Federation and Museum to share the resources available to assist the schools in teaching mutual respect. The meeting was well received by the superintendents who expressed their appreciation to the Museum and particularly to Federation for its non-judgmental helpful approach.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.