

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County

Board of Directors

February 12, 2018 7:30 PM

Silverman Suite Jewish Community Campus Rockland NY

Attendance: Lisa Green, Chair, Scott Coopersmith, Bert Distelburger, Steve Gold, Jonathan Meister, Mike Satran, Carol Schiller, Steve Schulman, Nat Wasserstein, Charna Weissman, Bonnie Werk

Gary Siepser, CEO Rebecca Bannerman,

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2017 were approved as distributed.

Campaign Report: The campaign report was distributed. Gary emphasized that while the total dollars pledged are only a few thousand less than on this date in 2017, the gift count is down by about 80 donors. The gift-to-gift average increase remains at a strong double digit level. In discussion, it was agreed to take a look at the participation by congregational members. The change away from distribution and collection of pledge cards at High Holiday services will be examined. Lisa invited board members to participate in phone sessions which will be organized by congregational affiliation and town.

Community Relations: Steve Gold reported that Lisa Green, Rabbi Scheff, Rabbi Pernick, Gary Siepser and he met with Orangetown Supervisor Chris Day. The topic was a proposed law that regulates what may be permanently placed on utility poles; including eruvim. Steve reported that such regulations are unlikely to stand up to a court challenge as it seems to only effect religious expression. Such regulations have been over-turned in other jurisdictions. The CRC has taken a low key posture on this issue as there is legal precedent which will protect religious expression and reasonable accommodation.

Allocations Committee Report: Lisa reported that Jeff Koenig and Brenda Lender will co-chair the Allocations Committee to determine local grants for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30 2019. Gary reported that the 4 local agency recipients all provided satisfactory mid-year impact reports on the grants made in May 2017.

Legacy Proposal: Lisa and Gary reported that Community Weaving (and earlier Board steps such as adding the word Foundations to Federation's name) had prioritized building a strong endowment program across the community to secure legacy gifts for all agencies and congregations. They briefly reviewed the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Life & Legacy matching grant program as a model that has been successful in about 50 communities and asked the Board to support an application to the HGF matching grant program. The details of the program were distributed in materials provided by HGF. The HGF matching grant would provide up to one-third of the cost of incentive grants to participant organizations and the cost of a professional program manager at a minimum of 24 hours per week. The HGF program requires a 4 year commitment. Lisa reported that Rockland Jewish Initiative would shift up to \$50,000 of its funding to cover this initiative. Additionally, one of Federation's largest donors has expressed support for this initiative and will consider a funding request.

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded:

Resolved that Jewish Federation adopt the model of the HGF Life & Legacy program, apply for the HGF matching grant and immediately begin conversations with the congregations and agencies to secure their participation in the program. It is further resolved that a budget for the project be developed and funds be included in Federation's current and future budgets. The motion was adopted.

(The following board members supported the motion by proxy. Melinda Levin, Jeremy Ruberg, Bob Silverman and Alden Wolfe.)

Creation of Israel Advocacy and Education Fund: Gary reported that a number of donors have discussed with him their desire to support efforts to strengthen community

support for and understanding of Israel. Also, the Israel Bonds organization is interested in partnering with Federation in such endeavors. Based on these conversations, Gary suggested the creation of a dedicated Israel Advocacy and Education Fund in Federation's endowment noting that such a fund would operate similarly to the other special purpose funds help in the endowment.

After discussion a motion was made: Resolved that an Israel Advocacy and Education Fund be created in Federation's endowment fund. The income, growth and/or principle of this special purpose fund would be available for Federation programs (sponsored alone or with partners) that generally advance an understanding of the central role Israel plays in Jewish life and which build understanding and support for Israel as a sovereign nation. The motion was adopted.

(The following board members supported the motion by proxy. Melinda Levin, Jeremy Ruberg, Bob Silverman and Alden Wolfe.)

Finance Report: Lisa reported on the highlights of the January 31, 2018 finance report which was distributed. She noted that expenditures are on target and all local and overseas agency grants have been paid on the quarterly schedule. Federation has made catch-up payments on its \$125,000 5 year commitment to the Jewish Community Campus leaving a balance of \$12,500.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.