

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County

Board of Directors

February 13, 2017 7:30PM

Jewish Community Campus

Attendance: Lisa Green, Chair, Carol Blau, Scott Coopersmith, Bert Distelburger, Rabbi Paula Mack Drill, Steve Gold, Rob Grosser, Jeff Koenig, Carol Schiller, Steve Schulman, Bob Silverman, Harriet Spevack, Andrea Weinberger, Alfred Weiner, Charna Weissman, Bonnie Werk. Alden Wolfe, Gary Siepser, CEO, Beth Weiss-Dunn, Operations Director, Maddy Schiering, Consultant

Guests: Mitch Brill and David Kirschtel of Rockland Jewish Community Campus and Gary Forman and Andrea Winograd of Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2016 were approved as corrected.

Report on Capital Projects: Gary Forman and Andrea Winograd reported on the renovation and expansion of the Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education. Gary shared how the changes will enhance the ability of the museum to teach about the lessons of the Shoah. Andrea shared how the museum is integrated into various course curriculums touching the 8,000 students on campus. Another 15,000 visitors from off campus came to the museum last year. At this date, about \$700,000 has been pledged for the project and a potential grant for an additional \$200,000 is in process. The school has given a long term grant of the 8,000 square foot space. Federation is asked to consider a capital grant of \$150,000. Lisa indicated that the board will discuss the request at a future meeting.

Mitch Brill and David Kirschtel reported that the Jewish Community Campus is actively engaged in an effort to reduce the debt on the campus. During the year, the Campus seeks to raise \$3 million through both a focused major gift appeal and a community appeal. They noted that at present the interest rate paid for debt service is very low and manageable. However, it is likely that rates will rise in the coming years and such an increase would have a serious impact. Rabbi Drill noted the critical role the campus plays as a forum where all members of the community can gather. David and Mitch also thanked Federation for its earlier commitment of \$125,000 over 5 years which is now in the 4th payment year.

Lisa thanked the Museum and Campus for their presentations and keeping the Federation informed of their plans and future progress.

Community Relations Report: Lisa Green and Gary Siepser reported on a number of activities.

- In response to a Facebook post by Lawrence Garvey, Steve Gold, Lisa and Gary met with Mr. Garvey, Lon Hoffstein and Frank Borelli to emphasize Federation's strong objection to the statements. Lisa and Gary also appeared in an interview on News12 where they condemned the remark and asked for an apology.
- Gary attended the Journal News forum on Ramapo after Federation condemned the publicity that was used to promote the feature newspaper story.
- Lisa, Steve and Gary met with George Hoehmann and the administrators of the Facebook page Clarkstown, What They Don't Want You to Know. They requested an end to the inflammatory language and anti-Semitism that appears on the page and comments section.

Annual Campaign and Women's Philanthropy Report: Bob Silverman and Beth Weiss-Dunn reviewed the status of the Annual Campaign. 837 donors have contributed \$478,127 compared to 1035 donors giving \$382,034. These 837 donors gave \$378,364 in 2016 for a gift to gift average increase of 26%. This reflects a pace

increase of 25% compared to this time last year. There are 215 new gifts with a value of \$72,003. Bob noted that these are very good results but that the campaign is not over and a lot of work remains.

Andrea Weinberger is co-chair with Bonnie Werk of the May 18th Women's Philanthropy event. Andrea introduced Maddy Schiering who is working with the committee. Andrea reported that author and columnist Jennifer Weiner will be the key note speaker. The goal is to have an attendance of 200.

Israel Program Committee: Carol Blau reported that on last week's Community Weaving seminar in Israel, the group had been impressed by numerous outstanding presentations. The committee will be considering these and others in planning for a full program next year. Carol noted that one of the presenters, Dr Zohar Raviv, has been invited to the community in early March.

Community Weaving Seminar: Members who had participated in the seminar shared some of their thoughts on the impact and potential of the seminar including the plans to bring Dr Raviv to the community March 7 and 8. The goal will be to expose large numbers of community members to his ideas and to demonstrate broad organizational collaboration. Andrea extended an invitation to all Board members to attend the March 2 "After Party" where the meeting will focus on a handful of important ideas that have developed over the past 6 months.

Good and Welfare: The Board noted the sudden and untimely passing of Andrew Alter, professional head of Israel Bonds in Rockland.

Mazel Tov to Rebecca and Max Kaufman on the birth of Yehuda Meir.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15.