

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County

Board of Directors

November 12, 2018 7:30 PM

Silverman Suite Jewish Community Campus Rockland NY

Attendance: Steve Cohn, Lisa Green, Co-Chairs, Carol Blau, Andrew Eisen, Lance Gilden, Steve Gold, Greg Karzhevsky, Doug Katz, Jeff Koenig, Melinda Levin, Jonathan Meister, Marcy Pressman, Steven Schulman, Rachel Shinder, Harriet Spevack, and Alfred Weiner.

Jewish Community Campus Guests: Mitch Brill, Jeff Degen, David Kirschtel and Joel Zbar

Israel Journey Guest: Ellyn Cohen

Gary Siepser, CEO Eve Zukergood, Business Manager

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of Sept 6, 2018 were approved as distributed.

Jewish Community Campus: The group from the campus reviewed their proposal to replace the campus bank financing of about \$8.5 million with private financing of \$9 million by individuals which would be at a significantly lower rate of interest. The presentation noted the essential nature of the campus in the Jewish Community which had been particularly highlighted by the Federation event memorializing the victims of the Pittsburgh shooting. Also, the location of the campus in the center on the county, with good access to both the thruway and Palisades Parkway, is of great value. The group also noted that time is of the essence as cash on hand is only sufficient to get through the early part of 2019. The campus has a value (estimated at \$13 to 15 million) in excess of the loan balance. About \$3.5 million has been pledged to the loan pool. The Mitch Brill asked the Federation to consider joining the pool of lenders in the amount of \$100,000.

A motion was made and seconded: Resolved that Jewish Federation join the Jewish Community Campus loan pool in the amount of \$100,000; to be funded from the Federation's endowment fund, contingent on the \$9 million being subscribed, an appraisal confirming the value of the campus and legal review.

The motion was adopted.

Israel Journey October 2018: Ellyn Cohen shared some of the highlights of the trip which had 22 participants. Ellyn expressed her thanks to Federation for sponsoring the trip and noted the need for trauma and support services in the Gaza boarder area. The group had visited a program of the Israel Trauma Coalition and recommend that Federation support programs using therapy animals; including a pony.

A motion was made and seconded: Resolved that Jewish Federation investigate and if reasonable, fund the purchase of a pony for the Israel Trauma Coalition to be used in Sderot and boarder areas. The motion was adopted.

Finance Report: Greg Karzhevsky reviewed the finance report for the period ending Oct 31, 2018 noting that expenses and income were about as expected. Greg also reported that the Federation audit for the period July1 2017 to June 30, 2018 had been completed. The "unqualified" management letter did not make any recommendations.

Community Relations Council: Steve Gold reviewed recent statements by Clarkstown town board member Pete Bradley and local social media reaction. Steve reported that he and Gary were in touch with political leaders across the spectrum, to encourage them to speak out about Mr. Bradley's comments. In a lengthy discussion, some board members felt that a stronger more public stance from Federation would have been appropriate. Steve noted that this is a challenging issues, particularly in social media because it becomes all consuming. Gary reported that he had reached out to those members of the community who were critical of Federation's response and had met with or had phone conversations with them. There was consensus that when the Jewish

community is portrayed as by Mr. Bradley a more forceful response would be appropriate including identifying the individuals involved.

Gary reported that a new round of public security grants has been announced and asked that Federation again make funding available to help potentially eligible schools and congregations with the complex requirements and application process. He reminded the board that Federation had done this with an earlier round of grants to provide security at child care center and had received generous thanks from 4 schools that had been helped. Gary asked for an endowment grant of up to \$5,000. After discussion a motion was made and seconded:

Resolved that up to \$5,000 from Federation's endowment, be made available to help Jewish schools and congregations apply for public security grants during the December 2018 application period. The funds may be used for the required security audits or grant writing as was done with the earlier round. The motion was adopted.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.