**Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County Board of Directors Sept 16, 2019 7:30 PM Silverman Federation Suite Jewish Community Campus West Nyack NY**

**Attendance:** Steve Gold Co-chair, Scott Coopersmith, Bert Distelburger, Andrew Eisen, Eugene Freyer, Lance Gilden, Lisa Green, Philip Gruber, Greg Karzhevsky, Rabbi Paul Kurland, Melinda Levin, Steven Schulman, Rabbi Ben Sharff, Robert Silverman, Alfred Weiner

Guest: Rich Levin, CRC chair

Gary Siepser, CEO, Miriam Allenson, Director of Communications and Cantor Barry Kanarek, Director of Life & Legacy

**Approval of Minutes:**  Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2019 were approved as distributed.

**Campaign:** Gary reported that only a few pledges for the new 2020 Campaign have been received. He reminded the members that leadership is asked to consider a 10% increase and that they will be contacted in the next few weeks about their gifts. Gary also reported that the launch event on Sept 12 was well received with about 140 in attendance including a contingent from the Atares Beit Yaacov girls yeshiva.

**Finance Report:** The finance report for the first 2 months of the fiscal year was distributed. Greg noted that while it is very early in the year, expenses are on track and revenue is slightly ahead of last year at this time.

**Life & Legacy:** Barry reported that 119 letters of intent reflecting 236 separate gifts have been received. The majority of organizations have already reached the 18 gifts threshold. Barry also presented the use of a digital kiosk to be placed in the campus lobby as a recognition device for the community. The advantage of a digital device being its flexibility in that it can be used for much more than just listing names including donor stories of why donors made a gift, programs supported by legacy gifts and other stories. There was consensus that this approach should be followed.

**Loan to Jewish Community Campus:** Steve Gold brieflyupdated the Board on the Campus plan to partially refinance approximately $8 million in bank debt with a pool of 16 loans totaling $2,500,000 at a lower interest rate. While this loan pool amount is lower than the amount originally anticipated, the interest relief is still helpful. A drive to raise the needed to retire the debt in whole or part is scheduled to be launched in October 2019. Gary reported that Robin Grosser reviewed the loan documents for Federation and that $100,000 representing Federation’s participation is available to be transferred. In discussion it was noted that the loan documents include the warning that there is a risk of partial or total loss of funds. The following motion was made and seconded:

Resolved: The Board of Directors re-affirms its November 2018 decision and resolution that Jewish Federation of Rockland County participate in the Jewish Community Campus loan arrangement in the amount of $100,000 with these funds are to be taken from the endowment fund. It is further resolved that any of these individuals may sign the necessary execution documents; Stephen Cohn, Steve Gold or Gary Siepser.

After discussion the motion was approved.

**Community Relations Counsel Report:** Rich Levin summarized recent activity in a few areas.

* The Rockland Republic Party organization broadcast a video through social media that was anti-Semitic. Within 24 hours the CRC had been in touch with ADL which led to contact with and statements of condemnation by Governor Cuomo and Attorney General James. Other groups also condemned the video which was removed in about 24 hours. It was learned through an article in the Journal News that this strategy was planned months ago as a way to secure Republican Party voter support in November. The CRC in a statement with the Rockland Board of Rabbis also condemned the video. There was discussion on the role of County Executive Ed Day in this matter.
* It was learned through social media today that a swastika had been scratched into the washroom door at a local Starbucks and that the shop has not removed the offending symbol or reported it to police for 3 weeks. CRC and Federation will be communicating with the shop manager and Starbucks corporate office directly. Governor Cuomo has directed the state police hate crimes task force to investigate.
* Rich also reported that Rockland Clergy for Social Justice had planned an event at the Jewish Community Campus that the CRC felt would lead was ill thought out and would have unanticipated and unfortunate consequences. After voicing these concerns at a planning meeting of the group the meeting was postponed to revisit the plans.
* It is anticipated that this week’s election in Israel will require further interpretation for both the Jewish community and others. The CRC is prepared to provide that interpretation and advocacy recognizing Israel as a fully functioning and lively democracy.
* Finally, Gary reported that journalist Bari Weiss has agreed to speak in Rockland on May 7, 2020. In discussion it was agreed that a wide and large coalition of organizations should be invited to participate in the event as both sponsors and promoters.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.