

Board Meeting Minutes July. 13, 2022

7:30PM

**Attendance:**

David Gordon, Robert Abrams, Edith Samers, Susan Kostin, Linda Hurwitz, Caryn Halbrecht, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Mike Schlessinger, Robin Fischel, Nan Gordon, Jonathan Ostroff, Jessica Greenberg Batkin, Tara Shapiro, Kerrin Behrend, Greg Waldstreicher, Joshua Esses, Ami Soifer, Dinah Miller-Marlowe. Diane Sloyer, CEO

Absent: Sherry Steiner, Jill Kaplan, Cathy Satz, Ellen Weber, Beverly Stein, Robin Fischel, Nan Gordon, Rachel Klein

David Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35PM

**Approval of May Minutes:**

Linda Hurwitz moved that the May 25th meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Edith Samer. Linda requested the future board meeting dates be included in the minutes and be added to the UJF website calendar. David provided the dates. There is one correction to the spelling of Michael Shanbrom’s name. With those changes the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financials**

Mike Schlessinger reviewed the financials. Jigsaw is looking at turning new donors into ongoing givers. The economy and stock market continue to be a concern for a downturn in the campaign. The impact of Ukraine giving was discussed. We are slightly over budget in total spending. We are over in security but we had a gift that covered it. We don’t know if it will continue and the dollars don’t show up on the income side. The cost of employment benefits have gone up a little. The favorable vacancies on the new hires will go away as Diane hires new help. Our endowment lost $75,000 in the second quarter, about 5%.

**Campaign Report**

A Ukraine ‘thank you event’ was held at Beth El. David, Susan, Diane and Kerrin all spoke.

We have not yet hit our annual campaign peak period. Rhonda and Ellen are editing the campaign brochure. Kickoff will be Sept 15th but we are waiting on the speaker who may need Sept 14th. More to come. Individual donor cards will go out this year. Sharon is working on Super Sunday scheduled for November 13th which is Global Day of Jewish Learning and family fun day.

**Israel and SNEC (Southern New England Consortium)**

Dinah reported thatit has been a year of restructuring for SNEC, Southern New England Consortium. Maya Shoham was hired to run the Israel operation and Jill Abel is based in the US interacting with the communities.

Diane, and her colleagues from New Haven and Hartford were there in February and met with Maya. SNEC had conducted a strategic review during Covid, and the biggest outcome was for there to be one big project that our consortium could wrap their hands around in terms of fundraising, that would speak to North America donors and more importantly impact the region spurring economic growth and filling in gaps. This is still a work in progress.

As an off-shoot of the governor’s mission in February, Israeli businesses are starting to come a visit CT. The JCRC is working on this with JFACT.

Some Board and community members had a chance to visit Afula in May and saw first hand the difference we are making. And for those on a return visit to Afula, they saw the tremendous growth in the region.

The biggest news for us that will impact us directly is the arrival of Yoav Yaron, our community Shaliach. Yoav arrives August 15th. He had his last day of Jewish Agency training today and he and Diane have been meeting regularly. Diane has met with community organizations, and we are starting to build his schedule. Temple Sinai was the first to send in his dates and he will be an integral part of the 5th grade Israel curriculum.

Chris Maroc has helped us find Yoav an apartment. This lease should be signed tomorrow but he will hopefully be living in Harbor Point in the NV. We have to furnish the apartment and by putting the word out on Jewish Stamford FB, we have almost everything. We will hire a mover to collect everything and hopefully move him around August 9 /10 to set up the apartment before his arrival.

We still need a car so if you or anyone you know would like to donate a used car in good condition, please let Dinah or Diane know ASAP.

He will attend our August meeting to meet everyone and say hello to those he has already met. We hope everyone will invite him to lunch or dinner or to join the family for something fun. It is lonely to be so far away from home and the warmer the welcome, the easier his adjustment will be.

**Allocations Committee**

Rhonda reported that 11 grants have been approved. There are 2 pending grants where we are waiting for some clarifying information. One is Hillel and the weekend Shabbat program. We just got back their responses and their numbers are better than expected. The other is the JCC J-fest proposal. Both will be on the menu. The bigger decisions will be made once we know how much money is left for ‘where it’s needed most’. Three temples submitted grant applications this year.

**MOU between JCC and UJF**

David shared the MOU between the UJF and the JCC with the board. The MOU outlines the ongoing relationship between the two organizations and was written as a result of our moving out of the JCC building. The MOU stands as an official agreement between the 2 agencies. Some items listed in the MOU are use of conference /meeting space, UJF having a dedicated mail box at the JCC until the first of the year, full free family membership at the JCC for UJF CEO and free single membership for 5 additional staff, and UJF agrees to continue helping JCC with annual financial support and working with them to continue the relocation transition. Financial support does not mean automatic grant application approvals and no monetary amount is identified. Greg mentioned that a sign in all Jewish Agencies in Dallas says “UJF supports this organization”. Greg will work with the new marketing person to bring this information forward. The MOU is attached to these minutes as an official part of the minutes.

**Foundation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County**

The “FJC” voted recently to change their name to ‘Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County’. CEOs Pam Ehrenkranz from Greenwich and Diane did not know this was happening. The “FJC” did not share this information with other federations. The other CT federations took exception to this name change, reached out president to president, and the discussions were contentious. David, Diane and the Greenwich leaders discussed how to react. JF of North America was asked for advice since JFNA pretty much decides the geography of each federation. Decision was made to take quiet steps to protect our image and marketing. We continue to work with Greenwich and our relationships are good

**New Business**

**We moved to 2009 Summer Street**. Diane scrambled to hire movers and the move is done, but we’re still unpacking boxes and arranging our space. Thanks to Alex Eben and others for furniture donations of desks and chairs. Diane was congratulated on her 6th year anniversary as CEO! Come visit!

**LIFE & LEGACY**. We’re in our 3rd year of LIFE & LEGACY supported by the Grinspoon Foundation. We met our community goal. This year we need to finalize that 50% of those who signed have made arrangements for their gift. We need 4 new letters of intent this year. Only 44% of the board have signed letters of intent. Please consider doing it if you haven’t done it so far.

The **new website** will launch Sept 1.

Three hundred Ethiopians came into Israel in May. Maccabee games are going on now with 1 New Canaan athlete. Cathy Satz’s son is there as well.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully submitted

*Linda Hurwitz, Secretary*

**Dates of future Board Meetings:**

August 17, 2022

September 21, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 7, 2022

Annual Meeting – December 18, 2022