**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 25, 2020**

In attendance:

Ricky Arbron, Robin Fischel, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Linda Gornitsky, Caryn Halbrecht, Leon Hanna, Rachel Klein, Lorraine Kweskin, Peter Lilienthal, Nancy Maimon, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Jonathan Ostroff, Shari Raymond, Arlene Rosen, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Edith Samers, Tara Shapiro, Michael Schlessinger, Diane Sloyer, Greg Waldstreicher, Ellen Weber.

Guests: Rabbi Levi Mendelow, Chabad of New Canaan

President David Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**D’var Torah**

Rabbi Mendelow delivered a d’var Torah. He explained that we have just finished the month of Adar (happiness) and that we have moved into the month of Nissan (miracles). During this difficult time in the world, we find it a challenge to square these ideas. In Judaism, happiness and redemption do not just happen to us. We have to be joyful and positive even in the most difficult of circumstances. It is up to us. As Jewish leaders, it is our responsibility to embrace an attitude of positivity. It is now needed more than ever so we will come out of this crisis better than before.

**Minutes**

Caryn Halbrecht made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25 meeting. Dinah Miller-Marlow seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

**Finance**

Edith presented the financials for the period. She commented that our receivables outstanding are currently $126,000. Given the current financial strain we are experiencing, she suggests that we assume that 50% of this amount will be uncollectible.

**UJF and Community Update--Covid-19 Response**

Diane reported that the office is assembling information on virtual community activities. She especially noted the PJ programming is terrific and is receiving a great response from the community.

Sharon Franklin is calling all long-term donors to thank them for their generosity. During these calls, some have expressed feelings of isolation. Diane is requesting volunteers to reach out to these individuals.

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is sharing extensive information and options.

David advised that he and Diane are contacting the local agency leaders to gauge their immediate and future needs and to determine where UJF can help. The goal is to coordinate the responses of the agencies and synagogues to ensure we are not working at cross purposes. Those contacted to date, JCC, Bicultural Hebrew Academy, and JFS, have been most appreciative. JCC has advised that they will not be doing JFEST and asked for permission to redirect their 2019 allocation for emergency use.

All agreed that it is important that UJF personally contact donors whose major designated gifts are slotted to be used for emergency use.

**2019 Grant Payouts**

At this time 1/3 of all dollar payouts to agencies have been made.

Rhonda reiterated the JCC’s request for permission to redirect their 2019 allocated funds to emergency needs in 2020. She feels this will be the first of several such requests.

Rhonda made the following motion, which was seconded by Tara Shapiro:

The UJF Board approves the release for emergency use by the JCC of the approximate $15,500 that has already been paid to them. After gaining additional information, we will consequently amend constraints on the use of the remaining funds which are to be distributed by end of 2020.

After considerable discussion the motion carried with 15 in favor and 6 opposed.

As a follow-on, the Board took up the topic of decision-making for future requests of the same nature. Edith Samers made the following motion which was seconded by Ricky Arbron:

The UJF Board allows the organization’s Executive Committee to make decisions between board meetings to release additional funds from previously allocated grants, as needs emerge and subject to sound fiscal responsibility.

The motion carried with 19 in favor and 2 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 22.