**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2021**

**Attendees:** Ricky Arbron, Jessica Batkin, Robin Fischel, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Caryn Halbrecht, Linda Hurwitz, Rachel Klein, Susan Kostin, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Jonathan Ostroff, Arlene Rosen, Edith Samers, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Tara Shapiro, Diane Sloyer, Ami Soifer, Beverly Stein, Greg Waldstreicher, Ellen Weber.

David called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Arlene Rosen **moved** that the Board approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 Board Meeting and the amended minutes of the February 17, 2021 Board Meeting. Dinah Miller-Marlowe seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Finance** –Michael Schlessinger

1st quarter, 2021 revenue is ahead of 1st quarter, 2020 revenue by ~$93,000.

1st quarter, 2021 expenses are tracking according to budget.

Michael explained the evaluation metrics for Charity Navigator. Michael noted that we are likely to receive a 3-star rating during 2021.

**Campaign** -- Ellen Weber

To-date $239,000 has been pledged to the 2021 campaign from 58 donors.

Ellen expressed her gratitude to those board members who made thank-you calls to 2020 campaign donors. These calls were universally well-received.

The kick-off event for the 2021 campaign will take place on September 12, 2021.

**Strategic Plan**—Beverly Stein

A strategic planning committee has been formed and has had its first meeting. The members of the committee are:

Kerrin Behrend

Henry Bubel

David Gordon

Linda Gornitsky

Susan Kostin

Chris Maroc

Risa Raich

Rhonda Schaffer-Maron

Michael Schlessinger

Diane Sloyer

Beverly Stein

Seth Tobin

Facilitator: Joy Goldstein

The committee will make recommendations to the Board, including goals, strategies, and tasks with dates. The implementation will be the responsibility of board committees once the plan receives final approval.

The process will focus on gaining community buy-in. There will be a concerted effort to engage the semi-affiliated and un-affiliated in our community. Beverly will introduce the plan goals and the process fundamentals to the Leadership Council members on April 28 at their previously scheduled meeting.

Beverly asked that board members serve as ambassadors for the plan. As such, she requested that board members encourage their constituents to participate in the survey which will be part of the overall process.

The goal is to conclude the effort by the end of 2021 with a formal, final report to be issued during quarter 1, 2022.

**Life & Legacy**

Edith reported that UJF now has 30 Letters of Intent.

Edith also presented a resolution regarding the disposition of UJF’s overall assets in the unlikely event that the organization can no longer function, or the mission of the organization is no longer relevant.



All board members expressed support for the content and spirit of the resolution. Susan Kostin volunteered to wordsmith the text. David will bring the edited version of the resolution to the board for a final vote at the next board meeting. It was suggested that the approved resolution become part of our by-laws.

There will be an in-person, year-1 Life and Legacy celebration on June 23 at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. A Zoom option will be offered. The rain date is June 24.

**Women’s Philanthropy Spring Dinner**—Robin Fischel

The spring dinner is scheduled for June 2 at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and will feature speaker Jean Chatzky, a well-known financial editor and national commentator. The program will include music, a box dinner, wine tasting, a craft project, a silent auction, and a “tricky tray”. Zoom participation will be welcome.

**Israel Mission, 2021**—Diane Sloyer

A mission to Israel is planned for Sunday, November 28 through Saturday, December 4. Based on interest, there may be a 4-day extension offered to the UAE (Dubai and Abu Dhabi). We are working with Da’at Educational Expeditions to plan the tour. There will be an information meeting on June 6.

**New Business**

Linda Hurwitz suggested a future educational program featuring a presentation entitled Holocaust to Civil Rights. The program is offered by the daughters of Reverend Carl Simon of Milwaukee whose mother was murdered during the Holocaust. The speakers will do either a virtual or in-person presentation. The only fee would be for travel expenses, should there be any. Linda has brought this idea to the attention of Nan Gordon for consideration by the Education Committee.

Tara Shapiro summarized activities connected with the Dignity Grows program. This effort involves the preparation of bags of women’s hygiene products which are supplied monthly to organizations such as JFS, Person-to-Person, Building One Community and Covenant House which in turn distribute the bags to those in need of such items. Volunteers have enthusiastically worked to secure supplies and prepare the donation bags.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

There is a need to reschedule the June 9 board meeting. Diane will follow-up.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Rosen