**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**July 15, 2020**

**Attendees:** Ricky Arbron, Robin Fischel, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Linda Gornitsky, Caryn Halbrecht, Lorraine Kweskin, Peter Lilienthal, Nancy Mimoun, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Jonathan Ostroff, Arlene Rosen, Edith Samers, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Diane Sloyer, Sherry Steiner, Greg Waldstreicher, Ellen Weber, Rachel Klein

Guest: Rabbi Marc Golub

David called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**D’var Torah**

Rabbi Golub offered a D’var Torah. He focused on the biblical statement, “It is not good for man to be alone”. Yet we find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic which is causing many of us to be alone. We have been forced to choose between safety and isolation.

However, we do have means to join with friends and colleagues through technology, and that is better than nothing at all. The Rabbi encouraged us to reach out to others in whatever ways we can, even if the connection is not ideal. We can consciously and creatively accomplish acts of loving kindness, even in these difficult days. Rabbi Golub acknowledged that there is an irony in the Covid-19 crisis. While we are so physically separate, it has brought us together in ways we had not previously imagined.

**Approval of Minutes**

Arlene Rosen moved that the Board approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020, Board Meeting. Ellen Weber seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ellen noted that the Call to Action letter included in the minutes had not gone before the entire board prior to UJF affixing its signature to the document. David explained that the decision to sign in the absence of full board approval was due to time pressure with respect to the publication deadline. In the future, every effort will be made to bring such materials before the Board. If time is too short, any necessary action taken by the president or CEO on behalf of the Board will be communicated as soon as possible.

**By-Laws Presentation**

Ricky Arbron made a motion that the Board accept the By-laws as amended. Ellen seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance**

Edith reported that at this time revenue is up and expenses are down. The favorable revenue position is largely due to the receipt of a PPP loan. Also, funds raised for the unbudgeted Covid Emergency Fund served to further add to this favorable position. Expenses are down, since many activities have been curtailed throughout the lock-down and gradual re-opening period.

**Granting & Allocations**

The deadline for receipt of grant applications has been slightly extended at the request of several agencies that needed more time to complete their proposals. Grants are to be reviewed starting on July 22. Rhonda has assembled a team to conduct these reviews and to develop the program menu. The menu needs to be ready in time for printing and distribution of a brochure by mid-August in advance of the Campaign Kick-off scheduled for September 9, 2020.

**Campaign Kick-off**

The date for the Campaign Kick-off is Wednesday, September 9, with a rain date of Thursday, September 10. The committee has developed a plan for a drive-in movie-themed event. Donors who have continuously made gifts to UJF for 18 or more years will be honored at this event.

Ellen asked for volunteers to assist with traffic control and serving of refreshments on the night of the event. A final determination of venue is forthcoming.

**Education**

The education committee has completed a debrief of the two recent successful programs---the pre-Shavuot Learning Experience and the webinar which featured Deborah Feldman, author of ***Unorthodox, The Scandalous Rejection of My Chasidic Roots.*** Nan advised that her committee is working on delivering a program on July 30 entitled Embracing Tisha B’av. Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Hammerman have already agreed to participate

**JCRC**

The first meeting of the new committee took place on June 20. Peter advised that the committee plans to focus on diversity and inclusion and, as such, have divided their work into three categories: race relations, culture, and education.

There is a great deal of work associated with the activities of the JCRC. UJF is actively working to hire a JCRC staff member.

**CEO Report**

Diane continues to check in with agencies. The JCC camp is up and running. It is almost entirely held outside. Bicultural Hebrew Academy is working out how they will operate in the fall. Schoke JFS remains focused on assistance with food insecurity. They are also doing Zoom counseling.

The new publisher for the newspaper has experienced challenges with advertisements. They will relinquish ad sales to UJF which will sell the ads and take the full profits. Diane indicated that a volunteer is needed to handle ad sales.

Federation ran a virtual tour of the RBG Life Exhibition at the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Ricky Arbron underwrote this program in memory of her mother.

On Monday, July 20, journalist Dan Haar will be the moderator of a webinar entitled Dual Pandemics of Racism and Covid-19.

**Life & Legacy**

So far, more than 70 letters of intent have been drawn up within the community. Lorraine Kweskin indicated that board members will be hearing from her or one of her committee members regarding their participation.

**New Business**

David reported that he has received feedback from some community members who are looking to UJF to devote more resources to matters of antisemitism. The board took this feedback under advisement.

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 9:45 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Rosen