**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**June 15, 2021**

**Attendees:** Ricky Arbron, Jessica Batkin, Josh Esses, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Caryn Halbrecht, Linda Hurwitz, Rachel Klein, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Jonathan Ostroff, Arlene Rosen, Edith Samers, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Tara Shapiro, Diane Sloyer, Sherry Steiner, Greg Waldstreicher, Ellen Weber

David called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He observed that the recent Israel rally was a meaningful and important event which demonstrated community strength.

**Approval of Minutes**

Arlene Rosen **moved** that the Board approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, Board Meeting. Jonathan Ostroff seconded the motion. Rhonda Schaffer-Maron asked that a sentence be added to the section on the UJF Honor Roll to indicate that donors will be able to opt-out of having their names published. The motion passed as so amended.

**Security Community Network Update**—Caryn Halbrecht

Four Federations-- UJF New Haven, UJF Western CT, UJA/JCC Greenwich, and UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien--- have signed a memorandum of agreement to hire a regional security director through the Secure Community Network (SCN). The total annual price tag for salary, travel, and training is $275,000. The four Federations together will pay $166,000 of that total and the rest will be subsidized by SCN. The Federations will split their share proportionately according to their community imprint.

Two candidates for this position have been identified, and an interview schedule is in preparation.

An anonymous donor is providing a material portion of our commitment.

A task force of agency representatives is to be formed to interface with the security director.

**Life and Legacy**—Edith Samers

The year-1 Life and Legacy celebration is set for June 23 at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Each of the 11 regional agency teams has reached the year-1 goal. Five organizations secured 25 letters-of-intent. The other six organizations secured between 18 and 24 letters. The total estimated after-life commitment is estimated to be approximately $8 million.

The focus for year-2 is to secure as least as many additional letters-of-intent and to encourage donors to formalize their commitments.

**Grants Update**—Rhonda Schaffer-Maron

The Grants Review Committee held its first meeting for 2021. We have received 11 applications from among the following organizations: Schoke Jewish Family Service, Bicultural Hebrew Academy, Temple Sinai, Temple Beth El, Congregation Agudath Sholom, and Friendship Circle.

The overall menu model will be reviewed as part of the Strategic Plan.

**Finance** –Michael Schlessinger

Michael and Diane are preparing to meet with the auditors in person. They are working to accelerate the completion of the audit in order to provide additional input to the determination of our Charity Navigator rating.

Michael will have a full quarterly report, including information on our audit, at the July Board Meeting.

**JCRC** – Josh Esses

The Israel Rally, held on Monday, May 24, was positive and well-attended. Several other events were held during May, including a Virtual Rally on May 13 and two panel discussions on May 3 and May 11. The May 3 panel discussion covered the topic Social Media, Savvy & Safety. The May 11 program focused on Hate Speech in a Free Speech Society.

Josh reported that there is to be a Walk for Unity in October. Linda Spilka will chair the event. Josh also noted that during January 2022, the JCRC will partner with the Ferguson Library to run a Building Bridges with Books Community Read. The JCRC will also join with the YMCA to offer a Unite Against Hate program during 2022.

**Young Leadership Division Reboot**—David Gordon and Diane Sloyer

With the large influx of young Jewish families to our area during the last year, there is an opportunity to engage these families by restarting our Young Leadership Division (YLD). Such a group can help these and other young families establish connections and integrate into the Jewish Community. Ultimately YLD has the potential to serve as a natural on-ramp for progressive levels of Jewish community leadership.

A discussion ensued among Board members to understand the mission of such a group and how it differs from current programs such as Next Gen and the Behrend Leadership Institute. The Board also discussed the imperative to act now. Any steps we take to establish YLD will be done with an eye toward ensuring the activities complement the findings and recommendations of the ongoing strategic plan.

To establish the Division, a part-time person is needed. Diane has a candidate in mind. Approximately $10,000-$13,000 is required to fund the overall effort for the months September through December 2021. For the full year 2022, the price tag will be between $30,000 and $40,000-. We have secured ½ the amount for 2021 and ½ for 2022.

Ellen Weber made a **motion** to establish a Young Leadership Division within UJF. Tara Shapiro seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**President’s Report**—David Gordon

The July Board meeting will be held in person with a Zoom option. Schoke Jewish Family Service has graciously offered us the use of their conference room.

On June 3, the Jewish Community Relations Council convened a meeting of Fairfield County Jewish organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities for selectively pooling resources and collaborating to arrange for high quality speakers and programs. The currently operating Westchester Jewish Council serves as a model for how this could work in Fairfield County.

The Israel Mission is scheduled to run from November 28 through December 5. An informational meeting was held on June 6. Twenty-five people have shown interest. This would be a large enough cohort to make the trip feasible.

**Nominating**

The nominating committee is in formation. Ricky requested that Board members forward names of possible new Board candidates for 2022.

**New Business**

Tara Shapiro reported on the Women’s Jewish Philanthropy Dinner which was held on June 2 at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. The event drew a large crowd and received high praise all around.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Rosen