**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2020**

**Attendees:** Ricky Arbron, Robin Fischel, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Linda Gornitsky, Caryn Halbrecht, Jill Kaplan, Lorraine Kweskin, Peter Lilienthal, Nancy Mimoun, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Jonathan Ostroff, Shari Raymond, Arlene Rosen, Edith Samers, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Tara Shapiro, Diane Sloyer, Sherry Steiner, Ellen Weber.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Arlene Rosen moved that the board approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020, board meeting. Caryn Halbrecht seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**By-Laws Presentation**

Ricky Arbron has been working with David Stein, Rob Hoff and David Gordon to amend the UJF By-Laws. The purpose of this effort is to realign the by-laws to reflect the current governance operation. A clean copy of the amended by-laws will be issued to all board members ahead of the next board meeting at which time there will be a formal vote on the revised document.

**Life & Legacy**

Lorraine Kweskin updated the board on the status of the Life & Legacy program. There are 11 local organizations in the program. The Grinspoon Foundation has offered valuable and practical direction. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the official start date for the program was changed to June 1. At this time each of the 11 organizations has secured at least 5 official letters of intent.

Board members will be hearing from the UJF Life Legacy Committee regarding their own participation.

**Campaign Report**

Ellen Weber advised that the official campaign kick-off will take place on September 10. The committee is considering running the kick-off in the format of a drive-in movie theater.

So far, 42 donors have made pledges to the 2020 campaign totaling approximately $100,000. Ellen encouraged board members to make their campaign gifts as soon as possible.

The menu for grants is under development. Letters have been sent to all agencies advising that we will continue with the menu model established for the 2019. Based on the difficulties the agencies have experienced during 2020 due to the pandemic, we will offer latitude on the types of programs for which grants may be used. Grant proposals are due in July, and Rhonda requested volunteers to review these proposals. Several members immediately stepped up to assist. Rhonda will be in touch shortly.

A final brochure of menu items will be finalized during August.

**Finance**

Edith reported that Hildi Parks, the new bookkeeper, has been actively working to assume the tasks formerly handled by the M group.

Current outstanding pledges from the 2019 campaign year amount to ~$67,000.

Overall, Edith and Diane observe that the current cash position of the UJF is improved over the same period last year.

The auditors have begun their work.

**Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)**

Peter Lilienthal reported that there are currently 13 members on the JCRC. Representation is from a diverse group. Peter notes that the JCRC mission is more important than ever.

UJF has joined many local human service and faith-based organizations in signing the Stamford “Call to Action: Stamford Stands Against Racism” pledge. The pledge letter was published in the June 21 edition of the Stamford Advocate on page A13 and is attached here for your reference.



**Education**

Nan Gordon reported that the Pre-Shavuot Learning Experience was a significant success. Collectively, more than 300 people registered for the various sessions. There were between 28 and 50 participants for each session, and UJF received voluntary donations totaling $850.

More than 300 people have registered for the noon-hour community read program scheduled for June 18. The program will feature Deborah Feldman, the author of the highly acclaimed book *Unorthodox*.

**Personnel**

Linda Gornitsky reported that the personnel committee has been busy handling return-to-work matters. The committee is also updating the personnel handbook.

**Re-opening of UJF**

The UJF office reopened on June 15. Taly Farber, the new office manager, is currenting coming in 2 times/week and has been particularly busy pulling documents needed for the audit.

JCC camp is being held outside, and there are tents set up in case of rain.

**President’s Report**

David explained that the relationship between UJF and the JCC is working very well at this time.

David also reported that he spoke before the Board of Rabbis. As the Pre-Shavuot Learning Program was so successful, David floated the idea of doing several programs during the year in that same format. He found the rabbis to be quite receptive to this idea. David also suggested a community trip to Israel in 2021. He found the rabbis to be enthusiastic about this idea as well.

Covid-19 emergency campaign funds were distributed. Each synagogue received $2500; the Jewish Home received $5000; and the JCC, Schoke JFS, and Bicultural Hebrew Academy each received $18,000. The JCC had previously received a directed gift of $50,000 through this emergency campaign.

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 9:15 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Rosen