

**Peninsula Temple Sholom
Board of Trustees
Minutes from Meeting on September 21, 2016
Approved**

Summary of Trustee Action Items

1. All Board members: please sign up for HHD Welcoming Committee slots! Sign up [here](#).
2. All Board members: carry out your HHD outreach.
3. Jon/Nathaniel/Marc are developing a strategy for surveys based on our new measures of success.
4. Nathaniel/Karen to develop a set of questions that board members can use in conversation with congregants about services, programs, events, etc.
5. Board/Senior Staff: Consider how to continue impact of JRS and expand teaching staff during 2017-18 budget process.
6. Lauren: confirm Board distribution list includes all Trustees.

Attendees

<u>Board</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Kristine Berman	Gene Podkaminer	Rabbi Lisa Delson	Alison Poggi-Leon (PTO)
Lois Fried	Betsy Rosen	Rabbi Dan Feder	Sophie Saddik (PARTY)
Scott Haber	Arlene Rosenberg	Bambi Feinberg	
Jon Herstein	Heidi Schell	Josh Mason-Barkin	
Marilyn Hollinger	Lauren Schlezinger	Rabbi Molly Plotnik	
Ware Kuschner	David Silberman	Cantor Barry Reich	
Jeff Lerner	Yash Snider	Max Ruzi	
Matt Mandel	Adam Steinberger	Allison Steckley	
		Karen Wisialowski	

Meeting called to order by President Lauren Schlezinger at 6:20 PM. Chair: Lauren Schlezinger; Minutes: Heidi Schell; Timekeeper: Matt Mandel.

Cultivating Sacred Space

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| 1. Welcome & Opening Blessing | 5 min |
| 2. D'var Torah (<i>Rabbi Feder</i>) | 5 min |

Vision: Big Picture, Big Questions

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| 3. EnVISIONing Goals – Finalizing Board Goals | 20 min | Activity |
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- Lauren shared questions and reactions that came out of the Board retreat which focused on engaging members and redefining our measures of success beyond focusing on just headcount. Overall, reactions to Board retreat were very positive – “inspiring”, “worthwhile”, “important”, etc. Lauren is committed to keeping this effort to redefine our measures of success alive!
- **Action:** Jon/Nathaniel/Marc are developing a strategy for surveys. Nathaniel/Karen offered to develop a set of questions that board members can use in conversation with congregants about services, programs, events, etc.
- Lauren shared a revised set of Board goals for 2016-17. There was feedback and discussion on the goals. Four priority goals were agreed upon. Every leader at PTS should be thinking about how to achieve these goals. The Board will review progress in a few months.

Realizing our Mission

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| 4. Education Briefing (<i>Rabbi Plotnik, Allison Steckley and Max Ruzi</i>) | 45 min | Report |
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- Rabbi Molly Plotnik: Historically Lifelong Learning has referred to just Adult Learning. Propose that we use Lifelong Learning to encompass all avenues of learning (Early Childhood Education, Youth, Adult). There will still be three separate committees to address the respective areas but under one overarching umbrella. Goal is to better integrate the learning avenues and avoid silos.
 - Allison Steckley: PTS Preschool is a play-based preschool because research shows that play is the most effective learning methodology for preschoolers. Incorporate constructivist approach into play – children are active participants in their educational experience. Classroom setup is intentional to encourage exploration and learning.
 - Bambi Feinberg - Jewish Resource Specialist (JRS) and teaches Kangaroo (3yo) class and teaches in Religious School. JRS is 10 hours/week. Bambi is in the 3rd and final year of the program, partly funded by Jim Joseph Foundation. She is a mentor and resource for staff and parents. Goal is to deepen Jewish learning and engage families in Jewish living. Ideally bridge gap so families will engage beyond preschool. Taught staff to be comfortable and confident in teaching Jewish curriculum (especially for non Jewish staff – about ¼ of the staff is Jewish.)
 - Preschool Communication – now communicating through a weekly blog.
 - Allison is partnering with Rabbi Molly and Lois Fried to do cross-over events with Preschool, RS, Sholom Women (e.g., Ladies' Nights Out)
 - Rabbi Molly/Religious School: Goal is to move away from the term “Religious School” to “Youth Education”. Rebranding to a more contemporary term and to better reflect Rabbi Molly and Max’s collaborative work. Developing an alternative family education program to launch in Fall 2017.
 - Max: Madrichim program – educate kids to become future Jewish educators and gain important skills. Teachers and madrichim set goals together then Max and Rabbi Molly create lessons based on those goals. New chugim programs – e.g. newspaper chug.
 - PARTY – main goal is to engage community and create Jewish connection for teens.
 - Rabbi Molly: Adult Learning brochure has a new name (not Lifelong Learning). Programs are grouped by types of classes (e.g., Sacred Texts, Spirituality, etc.) rather than by clergy member.
 - Challenges for Preschool and RS: creating meaningful content that will bring people in given everyone’s time constraints and how to balance substance vs. social content. Also hard to find qualified teachers. Since Preschool has grown and extended care has doubled (if not tripled) it has become its own entity to manage. Preschool and Religious School will likely need more staff in the future.

Action: Consider how to continue role of JRS and expand teaching staff during 2017-18 budget process.

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| 5. Motion: To disburse \$750 from the Charitable Giving Fund to the Jewish Federation of Baton Rouge in support of flood relief efforts. | 10 min | Vote |
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Background: The Charitable Giving Fund was created in March 2005 in response to the December 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and Thailand as a way to pass through donations from congregants to disaster recovery efforts. Since that time, PTS has disbursed over \$50,000. Today, there is a balance of approximately \$3,000.

Motion made by Lauren Schlezinger. Matt Mandel seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Governance

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| 6. Investment Policy Statement Adoption (<i>Gene Podkaminer</i>) | 45 min | Report/Vote |
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Gene reported that the IPS is meant to be a durable, robust document that governs how we look at our investments, how we preserve intergenerational equity and provides a lens through which we look at how we invest the funds. Topics of discussion included: Board's fiduciary responsibility and roles; current investment pool (\$850,000), asset allocation, spending policy. The question was raised about how to ensure that we don't invest in funds that may conflict with Jewish/PTS values. Another request was made to consider a process for the Board to determine amounts spent from the pool each year, subject to the limitations and expectations set forth in the policy.

Motion: To adopt the Investment Policy Statement (with the exception of some non-material, grammatical changes to be made and approved by the Investment Committee) as presented by Gene Podkaminer on behalf of PTS' Investment Committee.

Motion made by Lauren Schlezinger. David Silberman seconded. Motion passed.

7. Packet Q&A 15 min Discussion

- No dashboard this month – will be one next month
- **Action:** Sign up for HHD Welcoming Committee slots!
- Lauren reviewed guidelines (see handout) for HHD outreach. Note 3 changes this year: 1) emails are OK; 2) Lauren handpicked congregants for us to call based on our respective cohorts; 3) included is some personal information about family (e.g., interfaith, death in family, etc.)
- **Action:** Board members to make HHD Calls.
- Lauren handed out HHD pledge cards and mentioned that the primary goal for this year's HHD appeal is to improve participation. We know the Board will be a model for the congregation.

8. Consent agenda 2 min Vote
Motion passed.

Concluding Remarks and Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.