

Board of Trustees Meeting
May 17, 2017 ♦ 6:15 pm
Minutes - Approved

Chair: Lauren Schlezinger ♦ Minutes: Heidi Schell ♦ Timekeeper: Julie Feuchtwang

Attendees

Board

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
 Julie Feuchtwang
 Scott Haber
 Jon Herstein
 Marilyn Hollinger
 Ware Kuschner

Jeff Lerner

Gene Podkaminer
 Betsy Rosen
 Arlene Rosenberg
 Heidi Schell
 Lauren Schlezinger
 Sharon Silverman

Staff

Rabbi Lisa Delson
 Rabbi Dan Feder
 Rabbi Molly Plotnik
 Max Ruzi
 Allison Steckley
 Karen Wisialowski

Guests

Alison Poggi-Leon (PTO)

Summary of General Trustee Action Items

1. Board members to attend the Annual Meeting on June 4 at 9:30am (breakfast at 9am)
2. Note change of date for June Board meeting: June 14 (not June 21)
3. Board members to reach out to 2-3 congregants each and have one-on-one “get to know you” conversations in lieu of membership renewal calls
4. Board members to sign up for Shabbat Board Welcome:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449acaf2aa7fa7-shabbat1>

Summary of Specific/Individual Action Items

1. Karen to clarify with congregants in future documents that the 2% optional charge for credit card use is for the purpose of offsetting credit card fees

Meeting was called to order by President Lauren Schlezinger at 6:15PM.

Cultivating Sacred Space

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| 1. Welcome & Blessing for Community Service | 2 min |
| 2. D’var Torah (<i>Marilyn</i>) | 5 min |
| 3. Board Activity | 5 min |

Living Our Mission and Values

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| 4. Annual Meeting Preview / Trustee of the Year Vote | 10 min | Discussion |
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Annual meeting will be on Sunday, June 4 at 9:30am (breakfast starting at 9am.) Lauren highlighted a few changes in the agenda from previous annual meetings:

- Temple news will be shared via a panel discussion moderated by Marc Engel with Allison Steckley, Rabbi Delson and Rabbi Molly.
- Lauren will share brief President’s remarks during Welcome.
- We will publicize the winners of the volunteer awards in advance of the meeting to encourage friends

Important Dates for Trustees

Annual Meeting—June 4, 9am breakfast, 9:30am meeting
Board Meetings—June 14 and July 19, 6:15 pm

Action: Board members to attend the Annual Meeting. (Note: supervised play on playground will be available. Please drop a note to Jason).

5. Goal Check In (*Lauren Schlezinger*)

10 min Discussion

Lauren asked for responses via an electronic poll on how we're doing on Board Goal #1 which reads: use quantitative and qualitative measures of success when planning, experiencing and evaluating PTS programs, events and services. Increase congregant participation and volunteering in events, services, social justice and social action.

23% responded that we're "Well on our way"

71% responded "Solid start and have a ways to go"

Comments included:

- Educating and communicating to congregants about this is an important part (e.g. as recently done at Leadership Summit).
- More education needed around the reasons behind the new Bulletin format.
- Lauren recognized and thanked the clergy and senior staff for integrating these new measures of success into their work.

6. Rabbis' Report (*Rabbis Feder, Delson and Plotnik*)

30 min Report

Rabbi Feder

- Gave an update on and shared some inspiring messages from the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) in Atlanta in March – overall focus of conference was on justice.
- Gave a quick update on the history of PTS' Community Organizing efforts which began with Kolot from which various initiatives have emerged (Panim-el-Panim, Caring Community, Sholom in the Home, etc.)

Rabbi Delson

- Gave an update on Caring Community and the recent Wise Aging event, which was well received.
- Save the date for June 15th with Caring Community and Panim-el-Panim crossover event called Talking Mental Illness with Rabbi Eric Weiss from the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center.
- Caring Community - looking for new leadership as Linda Korth will be stepping back from her role as Chair. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for the hard work and leadership she has shown. Consider having a Caring Community liaison on the Board.
- Social Action – this summer we will have activities and learning on the Environment in partnership with Rabbi Molly.
- Save the date for November 19th Mitzvah Day from 12-4pm.
- Shared highlights from a URJ article regarding the Johnson Amendment and Trump's recent executive order: <http://urj.org/blog/2017/05/11/what-recent-executive-order-religious-freedom-means-your-congregation>

Rabbi Molly

- Thanks to the 60-50-10 Gala there is \$42K available for Israel scholarships and camperships. Rabbi Molly shared the process for applying for these funds. Students have to apply and write an essay. The Rabbis and Karen evaluate applications and requests. Everyone gets some financial support and families are expected to contribute something, even if nominal. Alexa Page Goldman Award is a merit-based scholarship for students going to Israel. Opportunity for students to reflect on their roles as leaders at PTS.
- One new change this year: previously only gave scholarships to NFTY in Israel. This year giving some financial support to Wornick families going to Israel through Wornick.

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- Sharon Silverman advised that Hebrew Free Loan also gives interest-free loans for camp.
- Party Palooza, co-chaired by Darci Rosenblum and Katie Herstein, took place on May 13 as a Youth Education fundraiser and community builder. Spots are still available for upcoming parties.

Governance

7. Dashboard Review (*Karen Wisialowski for Adam Steinberger*) 10 min Discussion

Karen gave an update on the Dashboard:

- Note average membership commitment, which is a relatively new item in our dashboard
- High Holy Day appeal met our budgeted goal.
- Accounts receivable balance for this month should be \$207K (not \$41K) which means the ratio of >90 days to Total is .78.
- Bookkeeper position is open; Lillian Markind is temporarily filling the position; considering outsourcing this function.
- **Action:** Since it was confusing in the membership commitment forms, Karen to clarify with congregants in future documents that the 2% optional charge for credit card use is for the purpose of offsetting credit card fees.

8. Packet Q&A 15 min Discussion

- Lauren reminded Board that June meeting is on June 14, not June 21.
- Lauren solicited thoughts on Board's role in supporting the membership commitment process. The new approach, in line with our commitment to community building, is to have Board members reach out and have coffee with at least 2 people instead of making renewal calls. Suggestion that we provide scripts/ideas of how to make those connections and have those conversations. **Action:** Board members to reach out to 2-3 congregants each and have one-on-one "get to know you" conversations.
- Max and Rabbi Molly met with PARTY Board and encouraged them to do the same thing and reach out to other teens.
- **Action:** Lauren reminded Board members to sign up for Shabbat Board Welcome and reiterated the importance of Board members' presence at Shabbat. The task is quick and easy!: 1) introduce yourself, the clergy and other service participants; 2) extend a warm welcome to all and a special welcome to visitors; 3) congratulate the bar/bat mitzvah family; and 4) encourage congregants to say hello during the oneg.
- On behalf of the Board and the Youth Education Program, Ware Kuschner recognized and thanked Max for his service, dedication and contributions to PTS over the past two years. The Board presented Max with a thank you gift.

9. Consent Agenda 2 min Vote
Consent Agenda was approved.

Executive Session

Lauren shared that in an effort to shore up some governance best practices related to Executive Session:

Important Dates for Trustees
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- Board will now vote to enter into Executive Session (per Robert's Rules of Order.)
- Brief minutes will be recorded and maintained separately from general session minutes. Unlike the general session minutes, which are available to all congregants, Executive Session minutes will be shared among the president and secretary, and others with a "need to know."

Lauren moved that the Board enter into Executive Session. Sharon Silverman seconded. Motion passed. Guests and staff were excused, with the exception of Karen and Rabbi Feder.

Board entered Executive Session at 8:02pm

Board exited Executive Session at 8:48pm.

Concluding Prayer

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.