

Board of Trustees
August 16 2017 ♦ 6:15 pm
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Chair: Lauren Schlezinger ♦ Minutes: Heidi Schell ♦ Timekeeper: Scott Haber

Attendees

Board

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

Jeff Lerner
Andy Oliff
Gene Podkaminer
Betsy Rosen
Heidi Schell
Lauren Schlezinger
Sharon Silverman
Yash Snider

Staff

Rabbi Dan Feder
Rabbi Molly Plotnik
Cantor Barry Reich
Allison Steckley
Karen Wisialowski

Guests

Michael Battat

Summary of Action Items:

1. Board members to sign up for HHD Hospitality Team at www.sholom.org/hhd or <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c48aca929a57-peninsula>
2. Each Board member will be asked to reach out to about 30 households encouraging them to attend HHD, answer any questions, etc. (Lauren to provide contact lists)
3. Each Board member plan to attend September 8 Board Shabbat and invite at least one other family member/friend to come
4. **Mark your calendars:** May 5 Gala Fundraiser and June 1-3 Community Celebration for Cantor Barry

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

1. Welcome, Blessing for Community Service 5 min

Rabbi Feder provided opening remarks in response to the Charlottesville protests and current political environment. He underscored lessons from our Jewish tradition to help us navigate this difficult time, including the importance of loving thy neighbor as thyself. Cantor Barry sang "Blowin in the Wind."

2. D'var Torah (*Jon Herstein*) 5 min
3. Board Activity 5 min Discussion
4. Board B'rit / Covenant (*Heidi Schell*) 15 min Discussion

Heidi shared a draft covenant framing Board promises that were adopted by the Board in August 2016. The Board

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Board Shabbat—Sept. 8, 6:30p ♦ Board Photo & Meeting—**Sept. 13, 6p**

Trustees agreed on the covenant and existing promises without any changes. Covenant to be signed at Board Retreat on August 27.

5. Congregant Coffees Debrief (*Group*) 20 min Discussion

Lauren reminded the Board that the intention of the congregant coffees was to connect with congregants in a more meaningful way. They are in lieu of the traditional annual membership commitment renewal calls. Overall response to a quick online survey by Board members was that the experiences were positive and successful. Everyone is willing to do it again. Small groups shared experiences. Anecdotes underscored the importance and impact of listening to congregants. Sholom Women has made a concerted effort over the year to reach out to different congregants.

6. 2017-18 Board Priorities | Update (*Lauren Schlezinger*) 10 min Report

Executive Committee met twice since July meeting to further refine and incorporate feedback on the 15 goals/priorities that were presented at the July meeting. Lauren presented a revised list of six measurable goals with specific strategies/tactics and trustees/staff who are responsible for those goals. Board members agreed that the six goals reflected appropriate priorities. There was concern expressed about Board/staff ability to achieve all these goals over the next 11 months. Need to prioritize goals and which ones need to be achieved this year vs over next 1-3 years. At the Board retreat we will discuss the Board's role in supporting priority goals.

7. Advancing Goals During the High Holy Days (*Rabbi Feder, Karen Wisialowski, Sharon Silverman*) 30 min Discussion

Services (Rabbi Dan) There will be a new prayer book for Selichot – latest in Mishkan T'filah series. Musical accompanist Emily Pelc will be in Sanctuary for afternoon Yom Kippur services and in Chapel for Nefesh services and evening family services. Rabbi Molly and Daniel Bernstein (new Director of Youth Engagement starting Sept 1) will be leading the teen services. Daniel will also be doing music during family services.

Hospitality (Michael Battat) Personalized letters will be sent by Susan and Michael Battat asking congregants to join the Hospitality Team. Michael asked that Board members commit to at least one hospitality slot. **Action:** Board members to sign up for Hospitality Team at www.sholom.org/hhd.

Appeal (Karen Wisialowski/Sharon Silverman) New this year: sending out pledge cards with the name badges. Congregants have option of donating online, mailing in or bringing to services. Pledge card will include prior year's HHD giving for reference. Also new this year: will do short appeal only during Yom Kippur morning services (Sanctuary and Chapel) and not on Kol Nidre. Individuals will be sharing personal stories during Rosh Hashanah. Appeal will refer back to those stories. Last year had approximately 35% participation. Goal is to be above 50%. Will also have pledge cards at everyone's seat. Discussed process for collecting pledge cards during services.

Board Outreach (Lauren Schlezinger) **Action:** Each Board member will be asked to reach out to about 30 households encouraging them to attend HHD, answer any questions, etc. Lauren will be sending call lists.

Honors (Karen) Karen, Sharon, and Sandy Oberstein are working on honor assignments.

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8. **Motion** (*Betsy Rosen*) To establish the PTS L'Dor VaDor Endowment Fund, which is intended to support the ongoing operations of the congregation into the future. Initially, up to \$400,000 may be used to eliminate the temple's mortgage. After that, earnings and gains will be reinvested in the PTS L'Dor VaDor Endowment Fund until the balance has reached \$1 million. Subsequently, as determined by the Board of Trustees, earnings and gains will be reinvested or funds will be allocated to the temple's annual operating budget according to the temple's investment policy at that time. 5 min Vote

Betsy made the motion. Sharon seconded. Motion passed.

9. Finance Update (*Adam Steinberger*) 10 min Report

Lauren shared on Adam's behalf that Shari is working on closing out the year-end books. Anticipate \$200K operating surplus. Karen advised we will be outsourcing the bookkeeping to Kesef, which primarily serves synagogues and other Jewish organizations. Expect to have more consistent cycle of reporting. Will also be providing online check-signing.

10. Cantorial Transition Update (*Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson*) 10 min Discussion

Nathaniel recognized Scott Haber and Adam Steinberger for their work in assembling their committees (Search Committee and Music Vision Task Force, respectively.) There will be two main events in spring: **May 5 – Gala Fundraiser** in honor of Cantor. **June 1-3 Community Celebration** with special Shabbat service on Friday night and concert on Sunday. Still looking for a Communications co-chair to work with Marilyn Hollinger and working on identifying leads for the various teams. Clergy is working on b'nai mitzvah transition planning. Working with ACC (American Cantors Conference) on search. Keith Tandowsky is co-chairing Search with Scott. Michael Battat noted that the URJ Hava Nashira retreat is June 1-3.

11. Board Packet Q&A 10 min Discussion

Betsy Rosen volunteered to do Costco run for beverages for Board retreat and Jeff Lerner volunteered to arrive early to help set up. Yash, Ware and Marilyn are planning the September 8 Board Shabbat. **Action:** Lauren asked that each Board member plan to attend and invite another family to come.

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

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13. Executive Session

20 min

Gene Podkaminer 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 8:26pm.

Board exited Executive Session at 8:50pm.

13. Concluding Prayer

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.