

# Board of Trustees Meeting

## January 17, 2018

### Minutes - APPROVED

Chair: Lauren Schlezinger ♦ Minutes: Arlene Rosenberg ♦ Timekeeper: Andy Oliff

**Attendees**

**Board**

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson  
Julie Feuchtwang  
Jenna Fisher  
Lois Fried  
Jon Herstein  
Marilyn Hollinger  
Ware Kuschner  
Matt Mandel

Andy Oliff  
Gene Podkaminer  
Betsy Rosen  
Arlene Rosenberg  
Heidi Schell  
Lauren Schlezinger  
Yash Snider

**Absent**

Scott Haber  
Jeff Lerner  
Sharon Silverman  
Adam Steinberger

**Staff**

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

**Guests**

Alison Poggi-Leon

**Summary of General Trustee Action Items:**

1. Trustees will review the most recent Adult Learning brochure and identify at least one Adult Learning class or event to attend.

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

1. Welcome, Blessing for Community Service	5 min	
2. D'var Torah ( <i>Lois Fried</i> )	5 min	
3. 2017 Review: Board Self-Assessment and Reflection ( <i>Arlene Rosenberg, Heidi Schell, and Lauren Schlezinger</i> )	30-40 min	Group Activity & Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heidi led the Board in a reflection on synagogue and personal accomplishments during the first six months of the 2017-18 fiscal year.</li> <li>• Arlene and Lauren reviewed the results of the Board's Mid-Year Self Evaluation, which were generally quite positive, and conducted some follow-up polling and discussion.</li> </ul>		
4. Rabbis' Report ( <i>Rabbis Delson and Plotnik</i> )	30 min	Report & Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabbi Molly discussed Adult Learning. Over the past few years, she has tried to balance in-depth classes with introductory classes. She also has tried to find the right balance between one-off or limited run classes and ongoing courses. She has had success with several classes that take Adult Learning outside the synagogue walls, such as Torah on Tap and Wednesday morning Talmud at Il Piccolo coffee shop. She has attracted a broad cross-section of congregants to Adult Learning, including some first-time participants. Rabbi Molly invited the Board to provide input on the best topics and timing for Adult Learning offerings. The Board discussed ways to encourage Board participation in Adult Learning. <b>Action item:</b> Trustees will review the most recent Adult Learning brochure and identify at least one Adult Learning class or event to attend.</li> </ul>		

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**Important Dates for Trustees**

Women's March—January 20 ♦ Congregational Retreat—January 26-28  
Executive Committee Meeting—February 1, 7p ♦ Board Meeting—February 21, 6:15p

- Rabbi Delson discussed:
  - Caring Community: Bev Rochelle has stepped into Linda Korth's role as Caring Community liaison, sending out information to congregants about needs in the community. In addition, congregants have been signing up to serve 2-week shifts as Caring Community coordinator, which involves making phone calls, writing cards, and visiting community members as needs arise.
  - Social Action/Social Justice:
    - PTS has a new \$30,000 fund for social action and social justice, the Shane Family Social Justice Fund, which was started by family of Larry Shane.
    - Upcoming social action events: (i) Feb. 16 – a Shabbat service focusing on immigration stories and Jewish values surrounding immigration; and (ii) March 3 – a Havdalah service and hands-on project to prepare toiletries and assemble diaper kits for CALL Primrose.
  - Israel trip: Together with Peninsula Temple Beth El, Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Congregation Beth Jacob, and Peninsula JCC, PTS is sponsoring a family trip to Israel from December 23, 2018-January 3, 2019. Traveling to Israel at this time demonstrates that we are not giving up on the Jewish state despite its challenges.

5. 2019 Budget Preview ( <i>Karen Wisialowski</i> )	5 min	Report
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- Karen reported that the annual budget process is underway for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The first of three Finance Committee meetings will be on Monday, January 22. Karen encourages all Board members to attend one or more Finance Committee meetings. The Finance Committee will present an almost-final budget to the Board in March. The Board will have an opportunity to comment, and the final budget will be presented to the Board for approval in April.
- “Big new ideas”: Last year we began a new practice of asking department heads and committee chairs to present any items that represent a big change from the prior year’s budget to the Executive Committee at the beginning of the budget process. Last week, the Executive Committee discussed the following “big new ideas”:
  - Changing the core hours of the preschool to 9 am - 1 pm (from the current hours of 9 am – noon). Although this change is motivated by a desire to improve teacher scheduling rather than by financial considerations, it will result in substantial additional revenue for the preschool.
  - New spending on: additional staff to support the B'nai Mitzvah program; an assistant director at the preschool; a change in the paid holiday policy for preschool teachers; additional administrative support in the accounting office; and some programming supplements.

6. Investment Committee Update ( <i>Gene Podkaminer</i> )	5 min	Report
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- Gene gave the quarterly Investment Committee update. Investment performance was strong for 2017. ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance-based investing) performance did not detract from overall performance in 2017. The portfolio’s investment return did not quite reach our benchmark (or target) because our fixed income fund had different characteristics than the benchmark. In order to get better alignment, we moved our fixed income allocation in November. In addition, due to the overweight international equities in our fund that resulted from strong international markets, in January we completed a “rebalancing,” moving funds from one category to another in order to be in line with our Investment Policy.
- We are looking for a new Investment Committee member to replace Jesse Zimmer, who will be moving from the Investment Committee to the Finance Committee. Gene welcomes any recommendations of investment-savvy people who might be interested in this role.
- Carla, our Morgan Stanley investment advisor, will attend the April Board meeting.

6. Story of the Month	5 min	Personal Reflection
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen shared a personal story based on an "artifact." Heidi will share a personal story at next month's meeting.</li> </ul>		
7. Cantorial Transition Update ( <i>Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson and Marilyn Hollinger</i> )	15-20 min	Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nathaniel referred the Trustees to Scott's Search Committee update, which was included in the Board packet.</li> <li>Rabbi Feder noted that over the next few weeks, 3 candidates will be visiting PTS to conduct mock-Shabbat services. The Board and the Search Committee will be invited to these mock services.</li> <li>Marilyn discussed the work that she, Andi Sobel, and Sharon Silverman have been doing on cantorial transition communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will establish a website that will have information on everything related to the cantorial transition, including search, honoring Cantor Barry, B'nai Mitzvah program, etc. Expect to see a draft of the website by Jan. 19 and launch one week later. The website will contain action buttons allowing people to donate, RSVP for events, contact the transition committee, or volunteer.</li> <li>Communications directing people to the website will appear in many places, including front page of the PTS website, Schmooze, bulletin, a special mailer with "Save the Dates" for the events, foyer monitors, Shabbat leaflet, Religious School newsletter, etc. Information about events will also be placed in external sources such as J. Weekly.</li> <li>Committee is working on contacting former PTS members, people who went through the B'nai Mitzvah and/or Confirmation process with Cantor Barry over the past 40 years, and the Cantor's family.</li> <li>Will start putting communications on PTS Facebook page and encourage Cantor to like and share those posts to get word out to his network.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Nathaniel is working with Cantor Barry to craft a letter that the Cantor will send out in support of the May 5 fundraiser. Money raised at the fundraiser will go to a new Cantor Barry Reich Tribute Fund that will support endeavors that are important to the Cantor.</li> <li>Nathaniel will be asking for support from the Board in identifying raffle items for the May 5 event.</li> </ul>		
8. Governance ( <i>Lauren Schlezinger</i> )	10-15 min	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominating Committee for President</li> </ul> <p><i>Bylaws reference - Article VII, Section 2(a): "Selection of President. At the January meeting of the Trustees, the Trustees shall elect a committee of three (3) Trustees who shall nominate a Trustee for the position of President. At the February meeting of the Trustees, the committee shall present their nominee. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The Trustees shall then elect a President. The newly elected President shall take office at the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year."</i></p>		
<p>Motion: To appoint Yash Snider, Matt Mandel, and Betsy Rosen to serve as the nominating committee for President. Lauren Schlezinger made the motion. Arlene Rosenberg seconded. Motion passed.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominating Committee for Trustees (2018-20 Board Term)</li> </ul> <p><i>Bylaws reference – Article XV, Section 1: "The Trustees shall no later than at its regular monthly meeting in March elect a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating Trustees. This committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Trustees and four (4) members of the congregation at large, as well as such alternates as the Trustees may determine. All these committee members must be members in good standing. It is the spirit and</i></p>		

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*intention of these Bylaws that any nominating committee shall be composed of more members of the congregation at large than of Trustees. The Trustee who shall serve as President in the next fiscal year shall not serve on the Nominating Committee."*

Motion: To appoint Jon Herstein, Julie Feuchtwang, and Andy Oliff to serve as the Trustee members of the Nominating Committee to nominate Trustees for the 2018-20 term. Arlene Rosenberg made the motion. Heidi Schell seconded. Motion passed.

9. Board Packet Q&A	10 min	Discussion
10. Consent Agenda	2 min	Vote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consent Agenda approved.</li> </ul>		
11. Concluding Prayer		
Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.		

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