

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 16, 2018

Minutes - APPROVED

Chair: Lauren Schlezinger ♦ Minutes: Ayelet Shapiro ♦ Timekeeper: Marilyn Hollinger

We who are given the gift of life, no matter how short or long it happens to be, do best by imbuing its every moment with meaningful actions that are complete, whole, and innocent. If we can have the strength to do so (and it is far from easy), then we, too, can one day face death with deeds that speak to our life's goodness and the way we lived it well.

– Rabbi Aaron Panken, z'l

Attendees

Trustees

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
Julie Feuchtwang
Scott Haber
Jon Herstein
Marilyn Hollinger
Ware Kuschner
Jeff Lerner
Matt Mandel
Andy Oliff
Gene Podkaminer

Betsy Rosen
Heidi Schell
Lauren Schlezinger
Yash Snider

Absent Trustees

Jenna Fisher
Lois Fried
Arlene Rosenberg
Sharon Silverman
Adam Steinberger

Staff

Rabbi Dan Feder
Rabbi Molly Plotnik
Karen Wisialowski
Allison Steckley
Ayelet Shapiro

Guests

Diane Goldman (Past President)
Alison Poggi-Leon
Eric Schlezinger
Andrea Zussman

Summary of General Trustee Action Item:

1. By June 30, each Trustee is to have outreach conversations with 3 or more congregants and, if appropriate, report any feedback to Karen, Matt, or Julie.

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

1. Welcome, Blessing for Community Service
Andy Oliff led us in the welcoming blessings.
2. D'var Torah (Andy Oliff)
Andy Oliff gave the Dvar Torah.
3. Cantorial Transition Update (Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson and Diane Goldman)
 - Reflections on All That Barry Event
Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson gave a reflection on the All That Barry Supper Club. As of May 15, 2018, the

event raised \$27,000 towards the Cantor Barry Reich Tribute Fund. In addition, the event had net proceeds of approximately \$8,000, which will be allocated to the June events. The total cost of the June events is expected to be \$15,000, with the deficit being covered by the 2017-18 operating account.

- June weekend

Diane Goldman gave an update on the Shabbat celebration on June 1st. Choirs such as Hava Nashira, the “Old” Chorale, kids’ choir and the Cantor’s band will be joining to celebrate. There are currently 231 people who have RSVP’d on the Cantorial Transition website.

June 3rd Concert Celebration is on its way with help from Doron Shapira and Manny Goldman. Everything from Broadway to Jewish folk music will be performed. Diane invited anyone interested to bake for the reception.

4. Clergy Report

- Rabbi Dan Feder gave kind remarks on the tragic passing of Hebrew Union College President, Rabbi Aaron Panken, z”l. He also shared his perspective on welcoming Cantor Fox starting in July. He also spoke about acknowledging both the joy and the loss within the cantorial transition process. He asked Trustees to ease the process with congregants through guiding the connections that Cantor Fox makes with the congregants.

- Youth Education (*Rabbi Molly Plotnik*)

Rabbi Molly Plotnik gave an overview of the Youth Education program for next year, highlighting the excellent teaching staff, new b’nai mitzvah program, shift in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade curriculum focus, and strong PARTY cohort. There has also been a shift in the upcoming 11th grade class with a focus on “Jewish Adulthood.” Ellie Feder, PARTY Board President, spoke about some of the incredible work the PARTY Teen Leadership Board has been able to accomplish throughout the year. Sophie Saddik will be the 2018-2019 PARTY Teen Board President.

Rabbi Molly shared that she is looking for a new Director of Youth Engagement to start this summer.

5. Story of the Month (*Julie Feuchtwang*)

Julie Feuchtwang gave a personal reflection about her life growing up in a large family, her love for baking, and passion for helping Jewish non-profits.

6. Community Engagement

- Reflecting on Vision, Mission and Values (*Heidi Schell and Lauren Schlezinger*)

Lauren Schlezinger led an interactive activity focusing on helping to define the differences between community building, organizing, and engagement creating the term “Community Build-or-gan-aging.” There will be a follow-up to this conversation.

- Prospective and New Member Outreach (*Karen Wisialowski*)

Karen Wisialowski gave an overview of a mind map she created to explain the current process of member outreach and welcome. The current process is family or person centric with a focus on allowing the potential

congregant to get to know how PTS can be their spiritual center or community. She requested additional lay participation in identifying potential members and in the new member welcome and engagement process after they join.

- Spring Outreach (*Julie Feuchtwang and Matt Mandel*)

Matt Mandel explained the outreach initiative the Board has created to further the connection between the Board and new and emerging leaders in the congregation. Board members are asked to select 3 or more congregants and meet them for coffee or a casual conversation before June 30. Board members are asked to report any feedback as appropriate to the committee.

Action Item: By June 30, each Trustee is to have outreach conversations with 3 or more congregants and report any feedback, as appropriate, to Karen, Matt, or Julie.

7. Board Packet Q&A

No questions on the Board Packet.

8. Outstanding Trustee of the Year

Vote for Outstanding Trustee of the Year was initiated. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 6.

9. Consent Agenda

Includes last month's Board minutes and approval of new members.

The Board voted to approve last month's meeting minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.