

Board of Trustees Meeting November 20, 2019 Minutes - DRAFT

Chair: Heidi Schell ♦ Minutes: Arlene Rosenberg ♦ Timekeeper: Jason Pollard

"But I think that deep down we all know – we all understand intuitively – that none of us is whole by ourselves. And this understanding is the basis of spiritual community. We all seem to know in the deepest part of ourselves that we need to be part of something larger than ourselves to be complete."

- Rabbi Alan Lew

Attendees

Board

Julie Feuchtwang
Jenna Fisher
Scott Haber
Jon Herstein
Marilyn Hollinger
Jason Pollard
Betsy Rosen
Arlene Rosenberg
Lisa Rosenthal
Eric Schlezinger
Heidi Schell

Mary Ann Waterman
Maria Yarmolinsky
Stuart Zussman

Absent

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
Ware Kuschner
Andy Oliff
Gene Podkaminer
Adam Steinberger

Staff

Rabbi Dan Feder
Rabbi Molly Plotnik
Cantor Alexandra Fox
Karen Wisialowski
Allison Steckley
Jonathan Harris
Ayelet Shapiro
Madeleine Steckley

Heidi called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

1. Welcome
2. D'var Torah (*Marilyn Hollinger*)
3. Blessing for Community Service
4. Bylaws Task Force (*Scott Haber, Arlene Rosenberg*) Presentation
 - Scott announced that the Bylaws Revision Task Force has held its first meeting. The task force consists of: Scott Haber (co-chair), Arlene Rosenberg (co-chair), Joan Fox, Liz Gottfried, David Levitt, David Monasch, Jason Pollard, Betsy Rosen, Heidi Schell, Rabbi Feder, and Karen Wisialowski.
 - Bylaws are being revised for the following primary reasons:
 - To ensure that they are consistent with PTS' Purpose, Vision, Mission, and Values (PVMV);
 - To update for changes in California's nonprofit corporations act;
 - To make practical updates such as providing for electronic voting at Board meetings; and
 - To exercise prudence and good business practice in reviewing our Bylaws on a periodic basis.
 - Timing:
 - Current bylaws require us to present our proposed changes to the Board at two consecutive Board

meetings – one month for discussion and the next month for voting. After the Board approves any bylaws modifications, they must be presented to the entire congregation for approval.

- o We may or may not be able to finish this process in time to present the revisions to the congregation at the next Annual Meeting.
- The task force will come to the Board periodically with updates and to seek input on issues under consideration. In addition, the task force will create opportunities for congregant input before the revisions are presented to the congregation for a final vote.

5. Membership Update (*Karen Wisialowski*)

Presentation

- Karen reminded the Board that PTS changed its renewal process this year by requiring congregants to proactively tell us if they want to renew. Our former practice, which was to automatically renew members from whom we received no communication, caused our membership commitment projections to be inflated.
- Karen reviewed the current status of membership renewals. Of the 660 households who received renewal packets this year, 632 have renewed or are in the process of renewing, 7 have formally resigned or have been resigned “administratively,” and 21 are uncertain and considered at risk of resigning. These 21 households have received various forms of outreach in the last couple of years, and are currently in the process of receiving individual follow-up from Rabbi Feder, Karen, and/or Heidi.
- The Board discussed ways in which the renewal process might be further refined for next year.

6. Membership Development and Engagement (*Heidi Schell*)

Discussion

- Heidi reminded us that the Board has identified membership development and engagement as one of its top priorities.
- Heidi noted that although much work has been done to develop plans and structures to address our decreasing membership numbers, there has been a lack of Board leadership on this issue. The Board discussed what is keeping us from taking the lead on membership development and engagement. Among the obstacles identified were a feeling that the task is too big and unstructured, and difficulty in identifying objectives.
- The Board will spend more time on this discussion at its next meeting.

7. Succession (*Heidi Schell*)

Presentation

- Heidi announced that Jon Herstein has agreed to be considered for nomination for the role of PTS president beginning July 1, 2020.
- Per our bylaws, a committee to nominate next year’s president will convene in January and the new president will be elected in February.

8. Security (*Karen Wisialowski*)

Presentation/Discussion

- Karen provided an overview of the projects on which PTS will be spending its \$100K Homeland Security grant. These projects will be competed over the next 2 ½ years.
- Karen acknowledged Mario Sanchez and Gary Fishtrom for their hard work in gathering the information and completing the forms necessary to secure approval of these projects, as well as Maria Yarmolinsky for her work on the Security Task Force.
- Heidi also acknowledged Karen and Jonathan for their hard work putting together these projects.

9. Board Packet Q&A

Discussion

- Arlene reminded Trustees to sign up to deliver the Board Shabbat Welcome.
- Heidi reminded Trustees that the Annual Meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

10. Consent Agenda

Vote

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

- Consent Agenda approved.

11. Executive Session

- The Board entered Executive Session at 7:58p.
- While in Executive Session, the Board passed a motion regarding certain employment contracts currently under negotiation.
- The Board exited Executive Session at 8:55p.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.