

Temple Sinai
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 16, 2021

Present: Cutler, Hoffmann, Kipp, Kopans, Lowenthal, Marx, Patashnick, Ruben, Silverman, Watsky

Absent: Banner

Attending: Bloom, Cornute, Rabbi Jonathan

Marx called the Zoom meeting together at 6:40.

Opening Remarks: Marx thanked Zobel and Silverman for organizing the giving of Purim gift bags and to Kantor for baking the Humantashin. He also thanked the Rabbis for their workshop on conducting a seder. Congratulations to Terry Lowenthal for being recognized as one of the JFS menschen. As always, thanks to Wang for the excellent programming she organizes for the Saratoga Jewish Cultural Arts.

Minutes: *On a motion by Lowenthal/Hoffmann, the February minutes were passed.*

D'Var: Rabbi Jonathan's d'var was on BeMegid section of the Haggadah and how it applies to the past year.

Standing Reports: on file in the office. Highlights:

Rabbis' report: Rabbi Jonathan reported the plans for Founders' Day. There will be a short candle lighting Zoom service and then we will join the Capitol District Zoom Founders' Day service at 7pm. The Rabbis' and the presidents of Temple Sinai and Shari Tfillle met to discuss ways the two synagogues can work together in the future.

The Rabbis announced their retirement date for December 31, 2022. They will work to assure a smooth and positive transition in the community. Given the contractual realities, there will be a 6 month gap between their retirement and the traditional hiring date for interim rabbis. The Rabbis have offered to work on a part time basis to cover this gap. They will talk with the bar/bat mitzvah families of 2023 to assure they know there will be a new rabbi for those occasions. They have a sense of gratitude and blessing for the many years at Temple Sinai and look forward to continuing their life-long, non-voting membership. Marx has begun conversations with the CCAR, URJ and HUC to discuss the rabbinic search.

Social Action: Hoffmann/Kopans introduced a proposed amendment to our constitution which would make the social action committee a standing committee. The Board will vote on the proposal at the April meeting. The RAC/NY is lobbying for the Less Is More Parole Reform bill.

Treasurer: *Watsky/Lowenthal introduced a motion to re-imburse the health insurance costs for the Rabbis.* It passed unanimously. There is a new pay roll protection payment plan which allows us to take out a loan to cover salary expenses in case we have difficulties paying those salaries. *Kopans/Hoffmann motioned that we apply for this program;* the motion passed.

Watsky introduced and led a discussion on the proposed 202212/2022 budget. The proposal will be voted on at the April Board meeting.

The 3 proposed endowment policies were voted on and approved in an email vote.

Building Opening: Marx asked the Board to think about re-opening the building and send him their thoughts about the following:

What will you be ready to attend in person in the fall?

Shabbat Services: should we have a hybrid model or an inperson outdoor model

Should religious school be open for students/teachers to attend?

High Holy Days – shall we continue with zoom services? Will you be comfortable attending services at Skidmore with several hundred people if they open the building to us.

What can we offer the b'nei mitzvot families next season.

Much will depend on the CDC guidelines.

Loan Campaign: Kopans and Patashnick are working on a fund-raising proposal.

Patashnick proposed a congregation trip to the Valley Cats stadium for July.

On a motion by Kopans/Watsky, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted

Therese Lowenthal

Secretary

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 20