

Temple Sinai  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, May 18,2021

Present: Banner, Hoffmann, Kipp, Kopans, Lowenthal, Marx, Patashnick, Ruben, Watsky

Absent: Cutler, Silverman

Attending: Rabbi Linda, Bloom, Cornute

President Marx called the meeting together at 6:45pm

Welcome/Thank you: Marx thanked Rabbi Linda, Bloom, Dana Kopans and the confirmation students for their lovely Sunday evening Shavuot program. He also thanked Rabbi Linda for the Monday morning Shavuot service while Rabbi Jonathan was in the hospital. Thanks to Rabbi Jonathan for the bi-coastal "Seven species" program that he led for Temple Sinai and Temple Beth Israel of Eugene, OR. And, as usual, thanks went out to Wang for her excellent, well attended Sunday evening film discussion program. Marx informed the board that Matt Kopans would be ending his board service this June after serving one term.

D'var: Rabbi Linda's d'var was on gratitude and the many ways and things we can be thankful for.

Minutes: *On a motion by Lowenthal/Hoffman, the April minutes were accepted.*

Standing Reports: The reports are on file in the office. Highlights:

Rabbi's report: Rabbi Jonathan met with Chief of Police, Shane Crooks, to visit and to reinforce our good relations with the Saratoga Springs Police Department.

Education Director: Bloom announced the last day of religious school will be May 23. It will take place in person and classes will be held at two different sites in strict accordance with CDC regulations. The lower school will visit the Allen's house and the upper school will be at the Novik's home. Combination fun and educational programs are planned.

Renovation Plans: Watsky reported that the renovation work on the West Wing is planned for about six weeks during June and July, with completion by the end of July. At this point, the cost will be about \$92,000. The issue of re-installing bathroom equipment and signage was the topic of a long, thorough discussion. *On a motion by Watsky/Kopans, the Board voted to put locks on both bathroom doors, change signage to indicate clearly they both are All Gender rooms, and install a changing table in what is now the men's room.*

Endowment Policy: Our previously passed endowment policy was written as part of the Life and Legacy Program. Federation has asked for clarifying language in the policy that will assure our growing the endowment to keep up with inflation. *A motion by Marx/Hoffmann moved to*

*amend our endowment policy with the following sentence added to section D-2: Spending Calculation. In setting the percentage of distribution, the Finance Committee will factor in the goal of preserving the purchasing power of the accumulated assets in the endowment. The Board unanimously agreed to the motion. There was discussion about flexibility in setting the goals.*

Grounds: Sustainable Saratoga has submitted a proposal to create a native plants garden around the trees in front of the synagogue. *Patashnick/Kopans moved that we approve Sustainable Saratoga's Proposal as long as it doesn't conflict with the city plans. Unanimous.*

Annual Meeting is June 8 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Transitions: Temple Sinai is facing several major transitions: A new Board with a new president and many new board members will be taking over in June. Marx/Silverman [the presidential nominee] meet together regularly to assure a smooth transition. They have already talked over the financial work and will shortly meet with the Educational Director about our religious school.

The other major transition is the approaching retirement of our Rabbis. Marx/Silverman are discussing this and planning to establish a steering committee to facilitate early stages in the Rabbinic Transition process.

Respectfully submitted

Terry Lowenthal

Secretary

**Next meeting: June 15, 2021**