

**KEHILLA COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - VIA ZOOM**

Date: March 24, 2020

Minutes taken by Shoshana

Board members:

Present: Karen Cohn, Catherine Lyons, Ruth Atkin, Ali Cannon, Stephanie Hochman, Lisa Korwin, Ori Tzvieli, Barbara Petterson and Shoshana Finacom

Others present: Rabbi Dev Noily, Michael Meyers, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, Susan Freundlich, Sasha Gottfried, Myrna Schwartz, Pamela Berkowitz, Julie Litwin and Don Stone

Reviewed the following prior to the board meeting (in Google Drive):

- Kehilla Board Draft Minutes for approval
- Fundraising in the Time of Corona
- "Synagogues Rising" proposal

Approval of the minutes

Approval of the 2/24/20 minutes. Catherine moved and Ruth seconded. Unanimously approved.

OPENING

Spiritual Opening - Rabbi Dev

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE: BOARD PARTNERSHIP WITH MANAGEMENT

• **Clergy Report - Rabbi Dev**

Rabbi Grey is putting a lot of intention into working with the school families and the BBM families helping walk through what is possible for the upcoming B'Nai Mitzvah services.. There are half a dozen services to give attention to this.

We continue to grow our capacity on the other services.

The spiritual team is gearing up for the growing number of sick people, and members who are experiencing extreme isolation, when clergy is unable to come and do visits. They are starting to see the beginnings of this. A lot of questions are starting to come as to how to support these anticipated challenges. Ori offered that it is really important to keep the circle of support safe. Ori has offered to consult with clergy as the need arises. Catherine has a list of healthcare providers in our community, and is happy to try and organize them to be consultants and support.

Rabbi Chaya Gusfield is organizing pastoral care and has five people willing to work with this.

Rachel Bloch is coordinating a Google Sheet based project of a DIY getting and offering help, in coordination with the Chesed Committee and the Chevra Kadisha.

It is also expected that there may be a death of a member in this community soon.

Ruth has concerns about food insecurity, especially for those over 60. Meals on Wheels and other services are offering multiple meals per day.

Sheela Mierson has offered to coach people on Zoom on how to run Kehilla virtual meetings and events.

Staff and clergy decided to purchase the larger Zoom package, allowing multiple panelists and break out rooms, on a month to month basis.

How do we mobilize as a community to offer our resources, ie, our building?

Ori says that for those of us who get the virus will potentially ultimately become immune to it, and can be more of service.

FIDUCIARY: BOARD STEWARDSHIP OF TANGIBLE ASSETS

- **Generosity Committee report** (Lisa)

GenCo proposes having a dedicated meeting to brainstorm, and invite congregants who have skills in the fundraising arena to join in.

Susan has been engaged with a number of fundraising gurus for a long time and has been thinking about, in particular, the last recession in 2008-09. These are exactly the times when activists and artists and spiritual folk like us who speak and write and do Jewish, sing, daven and reach out to one another. Toni Morrison "This is how civilizations heal." With all of the social distancing, everyone is hungry to connect. It is really important to be more intentional than ever to be in touch with our community. The more we can be in touch with people, hear and listen to them, the better. If people feel cared about, they are likely to want to support the community. It is important to not go quiet because we are feeling urgent about money. We need to talk to the community about what we need to continue to support what we do, and what we need to cut back on. Not a time for a capital campaign. More important to stay in touch.

Think about if there is a way to get together a group of members who really understand the financial needs of the community, so they can help represent the community. And a larger core of people to talk to members. We need a larger crew of people to connect and ultimately do the calls.

Having fundraising events is a delicate balance, as they require a lot of work, and we have grown them to raise \$15-20,000 every year. If we were to decide to not do a big event in the next year or two, we need to decide how to raise the money without an event (needing to raise \$40-50,000). People give at these events, and won't typically give at any other time.

Discussion/Questions:

Michael M - what about those people who were planning to be sponsors for the March event: could we still go to those people and ask for them to consider their sponsorship for their donation. Lisa's response: a letter is being sent letting them know about the cancellation of the event, and ask to still contribute, but also advise they can get a refund.

Ali - as we had around 200 people who participated in the last Shabbat service, if we let people know how they can support us, and if we just got \$10 per participant, we could have raised \$2000.

We could also use Zoom and partner up, as we did for the Annual ask, just to check in with members.

Catherine - She and Karen had a virtual meeting with WCLIG last night. It was very productive and a good connection, while talking about dues and finances.

Don - might be a good time to reach out to past members to know we are having services online, who might want to contribute. Also, while macabre, it is a good time to remind older members to get their trusts in order.

Ruth - look into charitable life annuity as another way to bring money in.

Stephanie - a lot of ideas are starting to percolate up, to share with Lisa in advance of the dedicated meeting.

Lisa - expect to hear soon of the dedicated meeting scheduled in about a month. (As of this writing, the meeting has been postponed)

Susan - suggested that a Google doc be created for us to add names of members to invite.

- Dues Discussion
 - How will this crisis impact upcoming dues?
 - How to communicate with the community with this new reality?

Is there a way to merge the topics of how the current situation is impacting our dues and other giving in a future Kol Kehilla article? Susan is happy to write the article reflective of what has been shared and discussed tonight.

Ruth - we need to keep working with understanding what it takes to sustain this community, reflecting the current situation.

Karen is willing to prep a smaller piece as part two of the dues article and tied into what Susan's article, as a reinforcement to what was previously written.

GENERATIVE: SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE ORGANIZATION

- Rabbi Dev awarded a Shusterman Fellowship for Jewish Leadership Development (Karen)

Their application had been supported by Karen. It was a thrilling honor to be selected, and Rabbi Dev may now need to postpone participation until the next cohort due to limitations imposed by the Coronavirus.

- "Synagogues Rising" proposal (Rabbi Dev)

Rabbi Dev shared the request for funding made by a collaborative of 7 progressive synagogues, Synagogues Rising, to the Nathan Cummings Foundation, which is likely to be awarded for \$35K because they solicited the application. Kehilla was selected as the congregation with the most administrative capacity, and for that role Rabbi Dev asked for the Board to vote their approval. The budget includes \$5K that can be used as we wish for admin support. The in-person planned meeting of the group at the Highlander Center may need to be changed due to Corona virus limitations.

The Board voted to approve Kehilla's role as administrator to the Synagogues Rising proposal (Ruth moved and Lisa seconded) and received unanimous support with one abstention.

Rabbi Dev spoke to how this would assist the congregations to share resources and strategies and not have to each invent similar actions. Susan Freundlich spoke to the value of having one foundation fund us, as something to share positively with other foundations.

AOB/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: April 28, 2020

Note that the June meeting will be on June 9th