

**KEHILLA COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

Date: 2022-07-26

6:45 - 8:30 Regular Session

Attending: Rachael Reiley, Michael Myers, Ori Tzvieli, Stephanie Hochman, Lisa Korwin, Nina Cohen, Ruth Atkin, Dina Burg, Pamela Berkowitz, Varya Simpson, Tadish Durbin, Dan Alpert

Staff: Michael Saxe-Taller, Dev Noily, Sam Lucky, Shulamit Wise Fairman

Not attending: Jaime Jenett

Guests: Don Stone, Justyn Lezin, Nate Gaylenn

Attachments reviewed:

- [Kehilla Board Minutes](#)
- [Executive Director Report](#)

AGENDA

Minutes taker: Ori Tzvieli

OPENING

- Group check-in: One thing you want to accomplish on the Kehilla Board this FY?
- Spiritual Opening - Shulamit Musical Nigun
- What the Heck - opportunity for fresh perspectives to ask why we do (or don't do) what we do
- **Board VOTED to approve June 2022 minutes:** (Ori moved to approve and Rachael seconded - all current members in June 2022 voted to approve, except for Dina who abstained as she was not at the June meeting.)

GENERATIVE: SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE ORGANIZATION

- **Board Leadership:**
 - **Board VOTED to approve Dan Alpert as Treasurer beginning 7/1/22** (Rachael moved, Michael Myers Seconded, unanimous approval.)
 - **Board VOTED to extend Lisa Korwin's term as Secretary until another candidate is identified.** (Rachael moved, Pamela seconded, unanimous approval)

- 2022-2023 Annual Plan Discussion
 - Calendar (including rescheduled Board Dates)
 - Need to reschedule the September meeting due to Rosh Hashana, November and December 2022 meetings (possibly merging into one meeting like last year) as well as June 2023 meeting dates. **(A Doodle poll will be sent out to find most commonly available alternative dates.)**
 - Deferring decisions on in-person meeting/hybrid until Covid conditions change.
 - Committee Roles & Process - committee chairs described their committees to the new board members. There are board only committees (Personnel, Board Recruitment, and future Membership Engagement) and committees composed of board and non-board members (Generosity, Finance.) There are also ad-hoc committees (such as Belonging and Allyship, Organizational Development.) Generosity actively reaching out to members to grow its numbers. **Co-chairs will contact new board members to discuss the best committee to participate on. Most current board members are sticking with their committees this fiscal year. (Lisa will be leaving GenCo.)**
 - Board Member Retreat/Board Development FY 22-23 - **will add date options to the doodle poll**

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE: BOARD PARTNERSHIP WITH MANAGEMENT

- **Clergy Report (20 min - Dev)**
 - **Board VOTED to sign on to Synagogues Rising network.** (Rachael moved to adopt the agreement, Lisa seconded. Unanimous support with one abstention (Pamela))
 - Members read below materials in advance of the meeting:
 - [Introduction to the network](#)
 - [Synagogues Rising Membership Agreement](#) -
 - Rabbi Dev presented a slide show to orient the Board to the network which they will share with members following the meeting. They also answered member questions.
 - Synagogues rising is a network of 7 activist synagogues led by activist rabbis. Got together (with help of some grant funding) with the purpose of networking and leverage voice and raising funds. Kehilla represented by R. Dev and Shulamit. Series of online meetings then 5/2022 had in-person retreat in Chesapeake Bay. Dev gave a description of the various personnel of the other synagogues. They have made a strategic decision to

expand the cross-synagogue contact, fundraising, and organizational development. Goals are to have another larger retreat some time this year, and to have each board affirm the commitment to the group. They have a purpose statement. Dev will send their slide show that was presented for the minutes. Board questions were around size and building ownership. Dev clarified that committing to join Synagogue Rising has no financial component, but more of a commitment to collaborate and share resources as opportunities arise organically (example is new Siddur could be adopted). Shulamit commented that the network on its own is a very supportive resource.

- **ED Report**

- Kehilla school: Offer accepted for new Kehilla School Administrator (Maria Lewis)
- FY 2021-2022 Final Figures: Expect that by August board meeting, Michael will be able to report final numbers on 2021-22 fiscal year. (Looks like there will be a small deficit.)
- High Holiday Services - where we stand right now - still lots of COVID. Plan to return to Scottish Rite and have multi-access services is being considered in the context of this high spread. Unclear if many in the community will be comfortable attending in person services for Kehilla to make the effort and financial commitment to rent Scottish Rite (\$32K) worthwhile. Still planning to do this (Plan A) but also looking at a Plan B which would conduct services in the Kehilla sanctuary and building for fewer numbers of members at each service, and complement those with online access. A simple community survey was sent out to assess preferences and the deadline is 8/1. More reminders to go out between now and then. Preliminary results – similar among members and non-member HH ticket holders – are that if COVID conditions stay as they are ~50-70% of the community would not attend in-person services at Scottish Rite. However, most of the community would be ok with Plan B described above. Outdoor options have interest but the uncertainty of smoke makes that not an easy option. The plan is to finalize proposals next week on Tuesday afternoon, including sending an email to the board to ask questions and weigh in. Additional options may also be considered. For example, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are separate rental contracts for Scottish Rite so can consider hosting a set of services at Scottish Rite, and implement Plan B for the rest. The financial/budget implications of giving up Scottish Rite are unclear. Board members are invited to review Tuesday's recommendations and email their questions/opinions to Michael, Dev, and Shulamit. Three main criteria for decision making

will include: survey results, COVID predictions, and financial implications.

FIDUCIARY: BOARD STEWARDSHIP OF TANGIBLE ASSETS

- **Finance Committee Report**
 - **Revenue Generation Group (an ad-hoc group)** - The Board reaffirmed its commitment to this group (Michael moved, Stephanie seconded, all voted were in favor)

GENERATIVE: SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE ORGANIZATION

- **Generosity Committee**
 - Lisa discussed the importance of donor support to Kehilla's financial health and well-being and informed board members that **Michael will train members at soliciting donor contributions during the next Board meeting's (August 23rd) executive session.**
- **Follow-up on last month's meeting with community leaders** – Rachael updated members on recent conversations with community leaders regarding the need for more robust Kehilla communications. Several actions are planned including a volunteer-produced newsletter.

AOB/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [BBM & Greeter Sign-ups](#). Members asked to sign up for unstaffed events.