

Temple Shalom
Executive Meeting Minutes
December 27, 2021, at 7:00 pm via Zoom and In-Person, Temple Shalom Boardroom

In Attendance: Debra Levy-Fritts, President; Myron Schwitzer, VP; Lory Kohleriter, VP; (via Zoom) Laurel Fisher, VP, Stephen Falk, Finance Dir., acting Secretary, Rabbi Paley; Steve Lewis, Executive Director

Absent: Jason Gadsby, Treasurer; Theresa Myers, Secretary; Rodney Schlosser, Immediate Past President

Guest: Stephanie Hirsh, presenting on goals and Blueprint 2025

D'var Torah: Rabbi Paley started the meeting with a D'var Torah from verses on the return to the temple from Ezra, noting the different reactions of those returning, and the mind-sets and practices reflected in the verses. Rabbi noted that our ancestors carried the broken tablets of the law with them in the ark, but our ancestors built always from what was to what would be, what the Jewish people would become - though that is difficult in the moment, to know.

President's Report:

- Debra Levy-Fritts welcomed everyone, introduced Stephanie.
- Stephanie Hirsh: Update on Board Goal Setting, Blueprint 2025, see attachment
- Our Blueprint goals bind administration to administration, and help the board to provide guidance and direction; they can be updated and there's no penalty for revision
- The executive team agreed that these are worthy 18 month goals, and appreciated the work of the strategic planning committee and the board's work that had created this list, as well as the formatting.
- Each goal is assigned staff and lay leadership (board, lay leader or exec assigned)
- Stephanie discussed that monitoring and benchmarking/data gathering will continue.

Executive Director's Report:

- Steve Lewis stated we will start the budget process soon. First staff will make suggestions on budgets, it will then move to committees for review of their section, and then through the final process. We anticipate the process will be finalized by March 2022. Debra went over executive team members assignments for budget area, as follows:

Lori - Worship/Caring congregation, Super Seniors - Tikkun Olam Council

Theresa - Lifelong Learning Council/some Tikkun Olam Council

Laurel - Communications and Connections Council - Membership

Myron - Administration Council, Development/Fundraising

Stephan - Finance and Administration

Jason - Endowment/Development & Building and Grounds

- Steve discussed the list of membership suspensions. The list is confidential as it involves member financial information. The Executive Committee will see if they know any of the members listed and can give insight to their situation. This will go before the board at our next meeting.

Debra added here that new member, Gretchen Reynolds is working with staff and Shomrei Adamah on a garden for Temple. There's been research and meetings with the A&M extension, planning for a pilot this spring south of the turnaround drive, 3-6 4x8 beds to start testing concept and doing some learning. Temple Emanu-El has been helpful as a resource. They supply the Vickery Meadow food pantry with produce - thousands of pounds each year, and we, too, would seek a partner once we have a system, and know we can make this work.

Board Communications Tool

Debra discussed the vetting of such a tool and possible help with costs through the URJ marketplace. The team agreed this was a good idea.

COVID-19 UPDATE - PROOF OF VACCINATION

The task force recommends we consider to begin to record/require actual proof of vaccination. It is felt that a third shot will be the definition of vaccination, and then updates as required. A system will allow Temple to know the status of our membership, will provide reassurance and may help us better calibrate our response going forward. Temple Emanu-El requires proof, as do other congregations around the country. Discussion to continue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.