

UVJC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2013
7pm – Roth Center Library

Attendance: Rich Abel, Devora Gronauer, Rusty Sachs, Deb Kaplan, Lori Hirshfield, Michael Zegans, Rob Shumsky, Dan Rockmore, Susan Israel, Rachel Kleinbaum, Robyn Jacobs

Absence: Mitch Stotland, Karen Manning, Michael Taxman

Guests: Rabbi Boraz, Maggie Duford, Felix Eskey, Gloria Finklestein

1. Call to Order and President's Welcome, Richard Abel (including presentation on new UVJC website)

Rich deferred to Maggie who is presenting her work on redesign of the UVJC website. Maggie walked the board through the new site. Discussed ideas for launching sites. Attached is overview of presentation.

2. Approval of Minutes of Recent Board Meetings, Deborah Kaplan

Rachel moved to approve minutes from 03/05/2013 including executive session and the minutes of 05/18/2013 (entire meeting was in executive session due to personnel matters). The motion was 2nd by Rob Shumsky. All minutes were accepted with unanimous approval.

3. Treasurer's Report, Rusty Sachs

No surprises from the financial reports. Rusty has had a request from the UVJC History Project for \$3900.00. . Gloria gave a synopsis of what the group is doing. The Group is interviewing and recording the interviews with elderly members of the Congregation and founders of the UVJC. UVJC. Rusty moved that we approve the request for out-of-pocket expenses allocated from adult education fund for \$3900 for the UVJC History Group. Devora Gronauer second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

We have had 10 memberships indicate they will not renew their membership. Some of these are for financial reasons. A couple of years ago the board made the decision to have a minimum amount for dues. There have been some requests for abatements and those are being reviewed. There was discussion about the minimal dues amount. The consensus was the abatement process should help identify a true circumstance in which dues may be reduced. The President, Treasurer and another board member could make the decision regarding waving of dues or granting scholarship for tuition.

It was proposed that we look into the possibility of taking credit cards. Question came up of the cost to us to do this. Generally this is a cost of 2-3%. Information regarding

process and costs will be pursued

4. Follow up Report on Extensions of Rabbi's and Religious School Director's Contracts and Plans for Moving Forward with Strategic Planning with these Key Staff Members, Richard Abel and Susan Israel

We have been exceptionally fortunate to extend both Maggie and Rabbi's contract. The Rabbi's contract is a little more complicated because of Dartmouth's sign off. The Rabbi's contract will be extended for 5 years. Maggie has gone from part-time to full – time with a 3 year contract. Feedback that I have received has all been positive. There is a list of bullet points that have been drawn up based on the feedback we got during the Rabbi's review process. We need to continue the work and involve our staff in the strategic planning process. Susan clarified that these are 2 different issues. One is the list of comments gained through the review process. Susan felt we needed to tie this up. Additionally we need to work on involving on our staff in the strategic planning process. Thanks to Bruce Pacht who did a wonderful job leading us in the performance appraisal process.

5. Preparations for High Holidays including Proposal from Social Action Committee for Bimah Baskets, Richard Abel

Discussed whether we want to agree to the idea of the "Bimah Baskets" A lengthy discussion ensued aimed at clarifying what the purpose of this is and what this would involve. Maggie discussed doing this at the family service. All agreed this is a good way to start. We will continue to review this idea and discuss it moving forward.

Rich asked the board to help with set-up and ushering at the services. He is hopeful Bill Brown will continue to organize the ushering staff. Security is always an issue that we discuss at this time of the year. Our security plan varies from year to year. Last year we had not a great experience with Safety and Security. Dan Rockmore agreed to meet with the head of Safety and Security. Rich will follow-up with the Hanover Police to determine the cost of Hanover Police presence.

6. Upcoming Activities: Annual Picnic, Opening of Religious School, website, social activities, etc.

The Annual Fall Picnic will be Sunday September 22nd during Sukkot after Sunday School. It was suggested we do the picnic after the Klezmer Concert 10/5 and 10/6. Rich would need to get clearance with Hillel regarding 10/6.

7. Other Business and Adjourn by 9

Rabbi wanted to let us know about a plan for Erev Rosh Hashana: we will be using the organ played by Evan Griffith. Get the word out.

Dan Rockmore made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm it was second Rachel Kleinbaum. Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Kaplan

Current *overview* of website

www.uvjc.org

Suggested launch date, Aug 1, 2013

BOLD is current tab *Italic* is subcategory under that tab

Home page

About: Bruce Pacht is preparing something on the history of the UVJC (need old picture of where we used to be)

Used introductory wording from our pamphlet and Google Map for directions

Mission Statement: Deb is looking at the bylaws for me or new one needs written. See other synagogue sites to see what they are saying.

Join our Synagogue: Maggie wrote some wording about membership with direct reference to treasurer for questions.

Membership form for download appears here.

Those who Serve: Page for each to write something about their involvement in the organization.

Our Rabbi

Our President (and incoming president)

Our Treasurer: Need jpeg, write up

Board of Trustees: Need group picture

Education Director

Roth Center Staff

Worship

Friday Night

Shabbat Morning

High Holidays-Schedule for viewing and download

Holidays in the Year: Post every holiday for the year (as I do on the school site) and times for services

UVJC/Hillel Choir: Evan Griffith is doing a write up on this for me and a picture will be included.

Adult Learning and Activities

Torah Study I & II- Alla Kan is contact person

Guide for the Perplexed

Talmud Study-(Used for an example)

Lunch and Learns: Schedule for the year to be posted with speakers names if known. (Easy to add a page for anything new we are doing)

Hebrew School-I have moved each page from the school website over to the synagogue site so everything is in one place and will disconnect the school website

Home Page Hebrew School

Special Announcements: Upcoming events and winter cancellations

*Enrollment forms-*downloads

School Philosophy

School and Holiday Calendar-for viewing and for download
Bar and Bat Mitzvah-complete handbook and all needed forms for downloading
Engaging teens: Combination of Madrechim/Youth Group learning program
Photo gallery
Our teachers-names and bios
Our curriculum-links to the curriculum publishers for reviews

Calendar and Community

This month's calendar-for viewing or download
Kiddish Schedule-including who to contact to find more information how to sponsor and sign up
Connection Newsletter: download
Board Meeting Minutes: downloads
Jewish Penicillin Request: form that goes directly to Lisa Silbert for request

Just for Fun

UVJC Film Festival-Susan Israel will provide info and lists if available
Recommended reading-Book Club information from Peter Aptikan or perhaps book Rabbi or others suggest.
Events in the Region: I am thinking in terms of the new member who might want to know of things happening here, links to the Hop, Monteshire, etc. Kosher Dining at Pavilion
Learning Links: Game to learn to type of Hebrew keyboard. Listen to any reading from the Bible in Hebrew. Database (from Israel) of ALL things Jewish, art, music, etc etc all links

**We could do recipe of the month (get from members)

List mahjong here?

Giving

This will be for donations, visa, mc, PayPal, Google dollars. Could also be a place where the HHD appear letter goes in addition to the home page. All synagogue sites I have studied (and that is many....) all have such a place to donate. I have spoken to Rusty about this. The question discussed was do we want a drop down that lists all the different funds that people can donate to, or just a default for general fund. This is also a great place for membership payments .

Contact Us

Contact form and sheet of all names and emails of people at Roth.

Other features:

We have five email addresses that come with our package.

I would like to suggest"

Rabbi@uvjc.org

President@uvjc.org

Treasurer@uvjc.org

Hebrewschool@uvjc.org (or Education Director)

Questions@uvjc.org

Search Engine enhancements

I am learning the different ways to use text so that we will appear easily on Google when someone is searching for synagogues, Jewish topics, Hebrew School....etc.

BLOG

If we wanted an ongoing blog we could add this feature.

Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr features if can add if we want.

Photo gallery that can work showing single photos, a strip or a rotating strip