

Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation

Board of Directors' Meeting

Date: January 8, 2020

Location: JRC - Rooms 210/211

Start Time: 7:30 pm

End Time: 10:02 pm

Item	Action
I. Welcome and Call to Order	
II. Blessings	
III. D'var	
IV. Appoint Timekeeper	Appointed
V. Minutes from December 11 Board Meeting	Approved
VI. Consent Agenda A. Cantor's Report B. Executive Director's Report C. Treasurer's Report D. Planning Timeline Revised E. Religious School Report F. Financial Development Report G. Executive Director Job Posting FYI H. Reconstructing Judaism Plenum Minutes FYI I. Tier 1 Decisions: Refugee Coalition, Executive Order	Approved The Board approved JRC to: (i) join the Chicago Jews for Refugees Coalition. (ii) Support a letter-writing effort organized by the Chicago Jews for Refugees Coalition to encourage lawmakers to comply with Executive Order 13888's requirement that governors and county officials notify Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in writing by January 17, 2020, to continue participating in federal programs to resettle refugees in their respective states and counties. Since subsequent to this approval, but before JRC sent letters, all the targeted officials had already notified Secretary Pompeo in writing, a thank-you letter was sent instead.
VII. ECC Update	Shelli Patt shared the highlights of an April, 2019, survey that showed JRC Early Childhood families were very satisfied with the program and have increased their participation in the Jewish community due to the program. Opportunities for improvement included connecting Judaica to daily life and adjusting the program's hours and days to meet the needs of parents.

VIII. Learning Theme	Senior leadership chose “democracy” as next year’s learning theme from a range of suggestions. A working group of 3-4 people with programming experience, theme-related expertise, and familiarity with JRC will be recruited to brainstorm and consider programming ideas for exploring democracy through a Jewish lens, and then serve as a resource for staff and lay leaders for implementing the programming.
IX. Monthly Financials and Update on Kesef Accounting Service	Financial statements still have inaccuracies that Kesef is working with JRC leadership to resolve. Committees are asked to submit their preliminary budgets for FY 2021 by January 27.
X. Board Goal Progress	To document active support of the four Board goals, Board members each shared what they will do in the next month to support one of the goals.
XI. Strategic Planning - Prep for February 2 Retreat	Board members shared their ideas about the five priority issues that should be addressed in the upcoming strategic planning process. These will be used as a structure and basis for continued goal development at the February 2 Strategic Planning Retreat.
XII. Pillars of Chai Campaign Update	New gifts to the Pillars of Chai campaign totaling \$1.6 million were announced.
XIII. Sign up for Gift Giving, D’var, Snacks	Board members were encouraged to sign up.
XIV. Yasher Koach Corner	Board members recognized these individuals: Sandy Spatz, Reese Gratch, and The Leadership Initiative team for the Pillars of Chai Campaign. Rebecca Hamlin for being the new Volunteer Oneg Scheduler for Erev Shabbat services. Hannah Shearn for recruiting Rebecca Hamlin and for developing the new, manageable structure for recruiting oneg volunteers. Evanston Mayor Stephen Haggerty for his December 20 letter to JRC expressing appreciation of and support for the city’s Jewish friends and neighbors in light of recent increased anti-Semitism across the country.
XV. Good and Welfare	Items were shared.
XVI. Executive Session	
XVII. Next Meeting and Adjournment	The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2020.

