

Houston Hillel Board Meeting
September 9, 2019, 7:00pm

Attendance: Jeff Berlat, Eric Cohn, Brian Cweren, Cliff Dacso, Rabbi Gideon Estes, Jason Fischer, Scott Friedman, Brian Hall, Sean Kessel, Jeff Levine (Phone), Cantor Mark Levine, Lena Lieb, Dan Pickelner, Jason Plotkin, Ellie Rips, Rozanne Rubin, Nofar Salman, Alyssa Silva, Leon Trakhtenberg, Karen Wolf, Rabbi Kenny Weiss.

1. D'var Torah
2. Stand Up for Houston Hillel Activity.
3. Mission Moments. Franz Brotzen, Rice senior, spoke about his participation in the MTF trip to Israel, and he took questions from the board.
4. Elevator Speech Activity. Board members wrote and practiced "elevator speeches" about Houston Hillel.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
6. Ongoing Business
 - a. Kenny reviewed the monthly Dashboard, and took questions from the board about the information the Dashboard presents.
 - b. Rozanne stated the Executive Committee's actions with regard to Kenny's professional goals, which align with the Strategic Plan.
 - c. Rozanne reviewed the results of the dot polling exercise from the Board retreat. The exercise concluded that the board is most interested in accomplishing these four items from the Strategic Plan:
 - i. The second initiative in Goal 1, Expand marketing and development initiatives
 - ii. The last initiative in Goal 2, Increase board member participation in development
 - iii. The fourth initiative in Goal 1, Cultivate new donors
 - iv. The first initiative in Goal 2, Increase Jewston participation in Houston Hillel's 1812 Campaign
 - d. Committee updates
 - i. Budget and Finance Committee. Leon reviewed the financial statements as of July 31, 2019. He also described the new reporting format that excludes the MTF grant. The AUP of MTF expenditures performed by an outside auditor found no irregularities.
 - ii. Building Committee. Daniel reported that the committee recently met, and aside from evaluating our access system, arrived at no short or long term anticipated expenses not already included in our 2020 budget. Safe rooms have been created in the building. Our concealed carry signage was removed to facilitate the installation of blast film on the front windows. Board members should contact Daniel or Kenny if they feel the board should discuss replacing the signage. An HPD security assessment recommended that we do not reinstall the signage. Staff will undergo active assailant training.

- iii. Development Committee. The committee met with Gina Shapiro via video conference before the board meeting. Gina will be at our November board meeting. The Committee has many tasks to accomplish in the coming weeks, including formalizing the development responsibilities and roles of the committee and the board. There will be a new development reporting format in the coming months that will give us a better idea of our goals and progress.
 - iv. Governance Committee has not yet met.
 - v. Programming Committee. Met a couple weeks ago to go over last semester's programs and those of the coming semester.
 - vi. Public Relations Committee has not yet met.
 - e. Kenny spoke about recent grants and gifts.
 - f. Alyssa shared that Jewston has engaged 185 people since July 1, and that she's encouraging participation the 1812 campaign.
 - g. Ellie reviewed some recent programs for undergrads.
 - h. Nofar talked about an upcoming Israel retreat and the increasing number of non-Jewish students Houston Hillel has engaged as a result of the MTF grant.
7. Evolving Business
- a. Gina Shapiro will be with us at our next board meeting to work with the board on development.
 - b. Rozanne shared her participation in the Hillel Board Chair call last month. Hillel is creating a student-facing ad campaign that can be adapted by individual Hillel foundations.
 - c. Please consider attending the Hillel International Global Leadership conference in Atlanta, Dec. 8-10.
 - d. Hillel's 96th birthday will be in October.
8. Good and Welfare
- a. Eric and Leah are expecting another child.
 - b. Jeff Levine got married.
 - c. Gideon has a new nephew.
 - d. Leon and Rina are expecting another child.
9. Adjournment.