

Special Houston Hillel Board Meeting
Oct. 14, 2024 – noon on Zoom
Minutes

Attendance: Grant Beiner, Steve Block, Marvin Blum, Paul Brokhin, Eric Cohn, Terry Cweigenberg, Flora Farago, Carly Fleck, Scott Friedman, Sandy Jackson, Lauren Kasoff, Lena Lieb, Ido Machol, Marcy Rothman, Rozanne Rubin, Ulrika Shragge, Katia Sokolov, Cory Weinberg, Armin Weinberg, Rabbi Kenny Weiss

Kenny began the meeting with background for the meeting's agenda.

- The intent of today's resolution was introduced at the most recent board meeting.
- After the most recent board meeting Kenny met with board members involved in construction to assess projected cost.
 - Some speculated that the cost of our renovation project would be from \$500,000, and that certainly \$1.5 million would be enough.
 - There was talk about renovating for the possibility of having a for profit café or rental office space. Conversation switched to the parking requirements for each.
 - The group then asked Hillel staff to conduct further focus groups on this issue.
- Focus groups
 - Hillel staff conducted focus groups of students and Jewston participants.
 - Consensus that everyone looks forward to a renovated facility with a café.
 - However, Jewston participants feel that they would not use a for profit café because they see a public space in a Jewish institution as a target.
- Carly and Kenny met with Jesse Hagar of Content Architecture.
 - Jesse looks forward to working with us. He tentatively feels that \$1.75 million would be sufficient.
- Fundraising
 - We've raised \$753,800 toward construction.
 - We also have \$250,000 from Bob and Edith Zinn and \$250,000 from the estate of Ellen Lowe. The Zinn and Lowe gifts are unrestricted, which means our total raised to date is \$1,253,800. Of this amount, we have \$934,809 in cash with the remainder pledged.

Motion:

Moved that Houston Hillel revise its May 8, 2023 resolution to reflect renovation of the current facility rather than tearing down the current facility and replacing it with a new building.

Motion of May 8, 2023:

Moved that Houston Hillel commence a capital campaign with the goal of raising sufficient funds to:

1. Tear down Houston Hillel's current facility and replace it with a new building and surrounding infrastructure.
 2. Increase Houston Hillel's endowment to support the new facility and future programming.
- Further moved that Houston Hillel Board of Directors empower Houston Hillel's Executive Committee to approve on the Board's behalf documents related to the implementation of a

Capital Campaign such as, but not limited to, a Capital gift acceptance policy and Gift naming agreement. The Executive Committee will report to the Board of Directors any actions it takes on the Board's behalf.

Grant asked for a motion and a second. Grant then asked for questions and discussion.

- There were a number of clarifying questions that dealt with the process leading up to this point (asked by two people who joined the board this past May).
- There was discussion about the potential cost of the renovation. At this time, we do not have specific answers, but it was observed that in any case a renovation significantly lowers our campaign goal.

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment.