

Houston Hillel Board Meeting  
September 9, 2024  
Minutes

In person: Andy Gitelson (Hillel Int'l Campus Support Director), Sandy Jackson, Marcy Rothman, Eric Bishop, Ulrika Shragge, Daniel Pickelner, Katia Sokolov, Abby Lestin, Armin Weinberg, Lou Mizis, Cory Weinberg, Carly Fleck, Kenny Weiss, Flora Farago, Ido Machol, Scott Freeman, Jeff Berlat, Steve Block, Grant Beiner

Online: Michael Burgower, Lauren Kassoff, Paul Brokhin, Rozanne Rubin, Ethan Schultz

- Welcome: Marcy Rothman, Grant is unavailable, introductions
- Kenny D'var Torah: The parapet: preventing "injury" to avoid negative outcomes
- Andy Gitelson:
  - Former Oregon Hillel executive director, since January Hillel's campus support director
  - Andy described his work with Houston Hillel and other Hillels for whom he has responsibility. Questions dealt with Title VI complaints, and Hillel Int'l plans for October 7 commemorations. Andy shared that he's available for whatever Houston Hillel might need him for.
  - Other issues raised in the conversation are our staff's plans to be on campuses for much of the day on October 7.
  - A specific question was addressed to Flora Farago regarding the campus climate at SFA.
- Kenny
  - Kenny began by sharing plans for a Black/Jewish Unity Dinner supported by Black and Jewish Leaders of Tomorrow, and that the Federation has asked Kenny to submit a full proposal to the Local Impact Fund for a campus ministers retreat.
  - Kenny also shared the great work our staff has done with engagement, and that Emily Boskoff, a former Houston Hillel assistant director, was just hired to be the executive director of Minnesota Hillel.
  - Building / Major renovation
    - Not getting the Sibel grant was a huge surprise
    - Concerns about the success of a capital campaign
    - A new building won't result in more student use of the building, but young professionals may use it as a remote work space.
    - Resentment and anger among community if it doesn't get much use, in competition with Chabad
    - Rachael Fenton, major gifts mentor, suggested to Kenny that perhaps a pivot to a renovation is a good idea.
    - In previous meetings with Rozanne, Eric Cohn, Scott, Grant and Lauren all felt moving to renovation was a good idea.
    - Consensus among the board that Kenny should pursue this avenue.

- Kenny added that it looks like a chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace will be established at Rice.
- Meeting adjourned, please keep this confidential