

Houston Hillel Board Meeting
January 6, 2025
Minutes

Attendance:, Grant Beiner, Eric Bishop, Steve Block, Marvin Blum, Eric Cohn, Terry Cweigenberg, Rabbi Gideon Estes, Carly Fleck, Scott Freidman, Josh Jacobs, Lauren Kasoff, Lena Lieb, Ido Machol, Lou Mizis, Marcy Rothman, Rozanne Rubin, Ethan Schultz, Katia Sokolov, Kendall Toarmina, David Vener, Armin Weinberg, Cory Weinberg, Rabbi Kenny Weiss.

- Kenny presents D'var Torah
- Marcy steps in for Grant, who was delayed, and calls meeting to order.
- Scott presents agenda item #1
 - Mentions that board members need to be good partners for Kenny during the renovations, and that we provide the right direction for Kenny to move forward with the renovation.
- Kenny explains capital campaign balances
 - \$1.5 million raised, \$1.1 million of that is in cash.
 - \$500,000 at Jewston Jewish Community Foundation
 - \$214,000 at Chase bank
 - \$414,000 Live Oak Bank
 - Expenses to date are less than \$13,000.
- Marcy asks about a specific donation in the December 2024 report.
 - Armin Weinberg asks about anonymous IRS reporting
- Kenny responds to a question about interest income from our savings accounts.
 - Interest for capital funds is reported separately from operations.
- Kenny shows a spreadsheet of capital campaign pledge receipts over the next five years, and talks about the Board's comfort with risk regarding financing or a line of credit for construction.
- We will have a project budget after plans are adopted by the Design Committee. This coming year we will adopt a separate budget for the construction project.
- Scott shares that the capital campaign is going well, and that we have other resources we can access if needed, such as our endowment funds.
- Gideon proposes a motion that the board moving forward with the renovation.
- MOTION: Houston Hillel's Board of Directors supports the idea of going forward with the renovation of Houston Hillel's facility on Bissonnet as a place to support students and young professionals in the future. In pursuit of that goal Kenny is authorized to spend up to \$100,000 to procure an initial set of drawings and accomplish preliminary engineering work necessary for the Board to evaluate the viability of the renovation.

- Gideon made motion, Eric Bishop seconded the motion
- During discussion of motion, Josh says that we should come up with a number that Kenny cannot exceed for the beginning stages of the renovation, which include architect fees, a survey, and other expenses necessary for reaching the next stage.
 - Josh recommends \$100,000
 - Marcy calls the question. Motion passes (all in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions)

- Staff reports
 - Katia, Rice referendums did not pass!!!
 - Carly: Jewston antisemitism dinner series, next semester Texas Summit for undergrads.
- Gideon says thank you to the staff for creating formative experiences for students and for motivating students on campus
- Armin suggested the staff create opportunities for Board members to become better acquainted with Hillel's work on various campuses.
 - Kenny suggests that board members go to UH and Rice for lunches.

Adjournment