

Houston Hillel

Meeting Minutes

May-4-2020

Present: Alyssa Silva, Kenny Weiss, Rozanne Rubin, Ellie Rips, Nofar Salman, Eric Cohn, Jeff Levine, Gideon Estes, Sean Kessel, Sandy Jackson, Jason Plotkin, Marlene Rubin, Jeff Berlat, Ellen Lowe, Daniel Pickelner, Grant Beiner, Jason Fischer, Leon Trakhtenberg, Scott Friedman, Bobby Wizig, Brian Cweren

1. D'var Torah:

Using Jewish text to contextualize the fate of the world today.

2. Announcements

Consent Agenda:

- Gideon moves to accept this agenda
- Sandy Seconds
- No conversation

Presidents Report

- What Hillel International has done for us.
 - Students and Young Adults are going to need us more after this pandemic
 - Notes from Board Chair Call is shared by Rozanne
 - Hillel International started Hillel @ Home- very successful numbers
 - SBA Loan Update
 - Global Giving Week- Hillel International is matching donations up to \$2,500 per donation.
- What Houston Hillel is doing
 - Kenny began by mentioning that our building is closed and will stay closed till Fall semester.
 - Kenny has been in touch with many people, schools, and organizations about what Fall semester may look like, and it seems like we really need to solve the food conundrum in order to bring things back to normal at Houston Hillel.
 - Will schools be back on campus or virtual in fall?
 - Large donors have been flexible, and are giving a donation now for Hillel Global Giving Week in order to take advantage of the match.

- Ellie Presents
 - Everything is online, and creating a sense of normalcy in a time that is very abnormal
 - Maintaining weekly Shabbats and lunches
 - Hosting virtual movie nights and game nights
 - Staying accessible for students
 - During Passover students were able to zoom into Ellie's family Seder
 - Ellie will continue to do summer programming
 - Engaging new freshman at Rice and UH
- Alyssa Presents- More detail on Powerpoint
 - Virtual Events
 - Personal Outreach
 - Jewston mensch of the week
 - Jewston Survey
- Nofar Presents
 - Personal Outreach
 - Conversation sharing what Houston Hillel means to them
 - Maccabee Task Force reunion
 - New Coogs for Israel board

Treasurer's Report- Shared by Kenny

- Budget was emailed out to everyone
- Jason Fischer and Kenny sit down quarterly to go over budget
- Food expense was \$5,000 less than previous years due to in house food preparation
- Two changes in the budget due to coronavirus- musicians for High Holidays, no staff conferences.
- LGBTQ grant from Hillel International carried over to the coming year
- Computer Replacement for Kenny put on hold
- Savings in Telephone change from Comcast to Grasshopper
- Insurance Policy renewed each November

- Receiving more donation for future years
- \$45,000 forgiveness of PPP loan
- Question from Jason F.: \$30,000 projection over is actually only a \$7,000 surplus because of gifts designated for future years
- Question from Sandy J.: What makes you think that the Federation will lower their allocation? Kenny responded that there's no indication of this, just being cautious.
- Rabbi Gideon Estes moved to accept the budget
- Jason Fischer Seconds
- The budget is accepted
- Ellen Lowe suggested an amendment to review the budget in January 2021. No vote taken but will review in January.

Development- Grant Report

- Granit Beiner: Hillel International President coming to Houston
- President Leebron for Rice Alumni evening postponed

Programming

- Scott Freidman: Nothing to add

Old Business- SBA loan

- Kenny: Forgiveness- we are golden!
- Very first loan that they processed and received money in our bank account a week later
- Nonprofits do not need to worry. SBA will most likely only audit two million dollars or more
- Bank that we took loan from is the one that approves forgiveness

Nominating Committee: Presented by Eric Cohn

- Motion to pass by Gideon Estes
- Jason Fischer Seconds
- Accepted by the board

Employee Handbook:

- Hillel International postponed to the end of the calendar year.
- Hope is that the new board accepts it sooner than later.

Good and Welfare

- Ellen Lowe: Her granddaughter is engaged!