

Adat Board meeting 03/17/26

In attendance:

Mark Klapow, President

Shana Waggoner, Immediate Past President

Cate Whiting- At-Large/Governance

Jane Feldman- Vice President, Personnel and Administration

Lauren Biel- Vice President, Development

David Clopper- Religious Practices

Mark Grossman- Vice President, Lifelong Jewish Learning

Tal Widdes- At-Large/External Relations

Daniel Simkin- At-Large/Children, Youth and Family Engagement

Andrew Leach- Treasurer

Jacob Feinspan- Vice President, Programming

Anita Lampel- At-Large/Tikkun Olam

Ariel Levin- Vice President, Community Engagement

Ariel Michelman-Ribeiro- Secretary

Staff: Rena Milchberg, Rabbi Scott

Congregant attending: Dinah Leventhal

Meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

The Board voted to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted that since the last meeting there was unanimous approval for Shana Waggoner to create a nominating committee. We also noted that David Clopper agreed to chair a newly stood-up Security committee.

The first topic for discussion was on recommendations for a new chumash from David Clopper and Dinah Leventhal. The Board voted to allow Dinah to speak, and it passed unanimously. Dinah presented about the chumash review that she, David, and a committee of members undertook. She and David sent a memo in advance, documenting the process and recommendations. Dinah reviewed the highlights, including that the current chumash is difficult to use and has a lot of commentary that disrupts the flow. The committee recommends switching to Etz Hayim. It has Hebrew and English text next to each other which is easier to read and uses arabic numerals instead of Hebrew letters to number the verses. The current Plaut is more consistent with gender neutrality in translations. Someone asked about putting an explanation or caveat somewhere, either in the book cover or elsewhere, regarding how the book was chosen or context about the book. Someone else asked about the price of the books and how that was factored in. The book options are all about the same price. Rabbi Scott noted that the working group was very thoughtful and he recommended publishing the memo to the community to socialize it with them before we move forward with buying the recommended

chumash. The Board authorized Rabbi Scott, in coordination with committee chairs and Mark to advance the process of choosing a chumash and to purchase the books pending the community engagement. We will provide a preview of the chumashim.

Mark Klapow gave an update on building improvements. The basement multipurpose room renovation is done, the social hall floor is done, and the pond work is scheduled.

The Board heard an update from Ari Levin on Rabbi Ariana Captauber's visit and the community's feedback, as well as the status of the search generally. The community overwhelmingly supported hiring Rabbi Ariana, finding her warm, personable, genuine, and enthusiastic. The Board discussed supporting Rabbi Ariana's continued education in educational leadership. The Board voted to empower the Board president and the search committee to move forward in this process, with 13 yeas and 1 abstaining.

Andrew Leach gave a budget update. There was a discussion about dues increase. We raised dues 3% last year. Someone suggested we focus more on donations instead of raising dues. Someone else said we should keep our dues at market rates. The Security chair noted that we may need to spend more on security, especially if the Board decides not to apply for security grants from the Department of Homeland Security due to ethical conflicts.

David Clopper and Cate Whiting, leads of the bylaws update effort, shared updated versions of bylaws revisions. They offered two approaches, one with a minimal amount of Board positions and committees and flexibility to add them, the other more proscribed. They suggested holding a virtual/electronic poll of Board members for which approach we want to take, and then they will flesh out that one option. They recommended the less flexible option because the other one may create more work for the board each year having to define which Board positions and committee chairs will exist. Someone suggested we should have a standing Board position for Personnel, which was not on the draft list.

Shana gave an update on Am Kolel, a synagogue led by Rabbi David Shneyer, who asked for his congregants to join Adat Shalom as he winds down the religious services he provides. Am Kolel also has music and social justice activities that Rabbi David Shneyer would continue to lead. He estimated that 20 of the 70 member units might join Adat. It is not clear how their dues might be adjusted with their folding into Adat and some other details. The Board members had many questions and concerns. Shana will continue conversations with Rabbi Shneyer and get back to us.

Mark led a discussion about the grounds needs. The Grounds Committee is interviewing organizations who will provide some plans to consider.

Shana gave an update that the Nominating Committee has gotten started.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.