

**Minutes**  
**Temple Sinai**  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**March 2, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Jerry Silverman, Terry Lowenthal, Charlie Newman, Maxine Lautenberg, Barbara Haynes, Bailey Bloom, Bert Bloom, Larry Fein, Bernie Forman, Rhona Koretzky, Melissa Strauss, Bob Joki, Susan Joki, Dawn Barsky, Arnie Barsky, Arthur Lowenthal, Rita Balmuth, Dan Balmuth, Amy Rosoff, Eleanor deVries, Ronnie Silver, Rhoda Pickus, Ann Seidman, Peter Seidman, Dianna Goodwin, Michael Cohen, Stephen Selig.

Meeting opened at 6:40 p.m.

1. Trustee Kirsten Mishkin reviewed the process that has been followed so far by the Facilities Initiative Committee (FIC) and architect John Waite. In an effort to determine the Temple's programming needs, Waite has met with the Board, the rabbis and staff, students, teachers, parents, former Temple presidents, congregants, and others. He has also received e-mail messages from those who were not able to meet with him in person and he has observed the religious school on Wednesday and Sunday.

As a result of this input, Waite's conclusions include the following:

- ❑ Almost everybody likes the current 509 Broadway location and the architecture of the original building.
- ❑ Many people expressed a desire for a dedicated, sacred sanctuary.
- ❑ Most people do not like the West Wing addition and have concerns that include its appearance; the lack of a dedicated sacred space for a sanctuary; not enough seating for congregational gatherings such as Congregational Seder and Chanukah celebration.
- ❑ Others expressed concerns about handicapped access to the building, inadequate parking, poor drop-off and pickup arrangement on Broadway, narrow hallways, and lack of gathering space.
- ❑ The Religious School is bursting at the seams, with inadequate classroom space, lack of dedicated classroom space, and pre-school in the basement.
- ❑ There is a lack of office space for Temple staff, including the religious school administrator, the temple administrator, the office manager, and the rabbis.

Congregant: How many square feet is the current building?

Trustee Trudi Renwick: 9,300 square foot, including 6,550 in old building and 2,750 in the addition.

Renwick outlined Waite's conceptual ideas for the building, emphasizing that he is not finished with his plan and no costs have been provided to the Board yet. The main concepts include:

- ❑ The old building is structurally sound and well built and should be used primarily for office space, a library, and meeting rooms.
- ❑ A new building should be constructed, housing classrooms, a kitchen, and a dedicated sanctuary.
- ❑ A new main entrance would be created in the rear of the building and at grade level with the street.
- ❑ The West Wing addition should be razed because it could not sustain two additional floors, it does not take full advantage of additional property line space available under zoning rules, it is not at grade level for a rear entrance, the interior design of the building wastes space.

Congregant: Is the alley in back of the Temple public space?

Renwick: yes.

Trustee Jerry Silverman: Waite told the Board that it would be throwing good money after bad to renovate the West Wing addition because the building has outlived its life expectancy.

Renwick: Under the tentative design for the new building, the first floor would include a lobby, sanctuary, coat room, 2 classrooms, and an oneg room. The sanctuary would seat about 165 on two floors, with the second floor being a gallery to expand seating capacity. A third floor of the building would include classrooms.

Congregants: There should be access to the gallery from inside the sanctuary.

Congregant: When will drawings be available to the congregation?

Renwick: The Board will see them around the end of March.

Congregant: How many classrooms will there be?

Renwick: eight, under the current tentative design plan.

Trustee Terry Lowenthal: Waite spoke with Rhoda Pickus and teachers before developing his proposal for the number of classrooms.

Pickus: We need nine classrooms on Wednesdays, including adult classes.

Renwick: There are other spaces available besides dedicated classrooms.

Pickus: Does the design take into account growth in the number of children in the congregation?

Mishkin: Future growth in the number of children is expected to be modest.

Renwick: Waite's proposal allows for construction of additional floors in the future, if necessary.

Congregant: Is there a different footprint for a building that includes a different structure for religious school?

Pickus: The Religious School is structured this way to keep families together, rather than having children split up with Hebrew School on two different weekdays. It is also designed to be family friendly, allowing children to participate in other after-school activities, while coming to Temple on Wednesdays and Sundays. The split session on Sundays allows for greater flexibility in assigning children and greater choice for families.

Congregant: We hit bedrock when we built the West Wing addition many years ago. Is the architect aware of that?

Renwick: We will bring it to his attention.

Congregant: What is the capacity of the proposed elevator?

Renwick: I don't know, but we will find out.

Congregant: What is the size of the multi-purpose room?

President Stephen Selig: It would fit 120 with tables.

Renwick: Waite's plan includes the possibility of phasing in the work in two parts.

Pickus: Has the Board considered interim space arrangements during construction?

Renwick: Not yet. Waite estimates construction will take 12 months for the back portion and 6 months for the front.

Congregant: What will Waite present for an alternative building off site?

Renwick: He will provide a cost estimate for a new building off site, based on the square footage and programming needs included in the renovation plan for 509 Broadway.

Renwick: The next step is Waite is expected to submit a plan with cost estimates to the Board by the end of March. Board will develop a plan and timeline for how the congregation will make its decision.

Congregant: Board/FIC should work backwards from Spring 2009 or later as a timeline for breaking ground.

Congregant: Board should aim for a congregation-wide decision around the High Holidays.

Silverman: Has the Board done a better job of communicating on the building issues?

Congregants: Yes, but information should be sent out in different media, through the Religious School program, and in different formats.

Congregant: I am concerned that there are not more parents of children in religious school at tonight's meeting or at previous meetings.

Lowenthal: One more meeting should be held for parents of school-age children.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jerry Silverman, recording secretary