

Minutes
Temple Sinai
Congregational Meeting
September 10, 2007

PRESENT: Stephen Selig, Nicole Weinstein, Jerry Silverman, Mike Fischer, Mark Bauman, Cheryl Hoffman, Kirsten Mishkin, Roy Ginsberg, Melissa Strauss, Edna Heyman, Trudi Renwick, Arnie Barsky, Terry Lowenthal, Arthur Lowenthal, Art Ruben, Charlie Newman, Andrea Newman, Judy Beck, Peter Seidman, Bernard Forman, Jeff Olson, Ellie deVries, Gil Harwood, Ron Maenza Karol Maenza, Pat Spokane, Michael Fenton, Becca Oppenheimer, Amy Rosoff, Ronnie Silver, Joel Lautenberg, Maxine Lautenberg, Bob Joki, Susan Joki, Larry Fein, Phil Bernnard, Deidre Chuckrow, Linda Glansberg, Jeff Paul, Kimberly Goldberg, Barbara Haynes, Deborah Meyers, Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Melissa Woods, Rhoda Pickus, Dan Balmuth, Nadine Keisler, David Spingarn, Aldo Vacs, Carol Schupp-Star.

Meeting opened at 7:15 p.m.

1. President Stephen Selig gave introductory remarks and thanked Board members for their work on the Facilities Initiative.
2. Trustee Trudi Renwick gave history of the Strategic Planning Council, Facilities Initiative Committee (FIC), and other issues involving the building.
3. Trustee Kirsten Mishkin gave background on John Waite and his proposal. The services that would be provided by Waite, under the plan proposed by the Board of Trustees, include:
 - ❑ work interactively with the Board and rabbis to determine “the program” for the proposed facility, including the development of space requirements and priorities for the proposed uses and the identification of design objectives and possible conceptual design approaches;
 - ❑ assessment of the condition and function of the existing building at 509 Broadway;
 - ❑ preparation of conceptual design alternatives, including proposed site plan, floor plans, building massing study and a cost model for the required renovation work and new construction;
 - ❑ development of a site plan of the downtown area surrounding 509 Broadway, including information about proposed construction in the vicinity, alley redevelopment and parking facilities;
 - ❑ preparation of a list of potential grants from outside sources available because 509 Broadway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

- preparation of a cost estimate for a new building to be constructed on an undeveloped site.

4. Members of the congregation asked questions and made comments, including the following:

Congregant: Why did the Board choose to change architects?

Renwick: Levin was too expensive and original vote on Levin v. Waite was close.

Congregant: I was concerned that Levin was an out-of-town architect. Waite seems to have the right vision for Temple Sinai.

Congregant: I breathed a sigh of relief when the Board changed from Levin to Waite.

Congregant: What are the reimbursable expenses in addition to \$16,300?

Mishkin: It is usual to have itemized reimbursable expenses, some of them are negligible, but I think some of them should be discussed further in our negotiations of the contract. It's my understanding that any costs that are not negligible require prior approval from the client.

Congregant: Does Waite have experience with construction of new buildings?

Renwick: He will provide a cost estimate for new construction of a site other than 509 Broadway, not an architectural model.

Congregant: Some parents are irate about having a split session Sunday School. Will we always have that?

Renwick: Those concerns should be expressed during the upcoming needs assessment portion of the process.

Congregant: I'm glad Waite is not looking to do a "band-aid" approach to the building.

Congregant: The letter to the congregation said there would be a vote by the end of 2008. On what?

Renwick: Our hope is to have a final vote on the building by the end of 2008.

Congregant: An attorney should look over the contract.

Renwick: It is being reviewed by two attorneys.

Congregant: Has the Board considered options other than staying at 509 Broadway or building on a vacant lot outside of town?

Renwick: We're not in a position to look at other properties until we know whether we want to stay at 509 Broadway. The Board is open to other options.

Congregant: A decision to stay or go depends on where we would go.

Congregant: What do we do in the interim about pressing building issues like pre-schoolers in the basement?

Renwick: The Board will address the pre-school issue at its next meeting.

Congregant: Has the Board considered leasing space for the pre-school?

Renwick: yes.

Rhoda Pickus: The Education Committee welcomes members of the congregation to attend its meetings.

Congregant: Where did the 10,000 square foot figure come from?

Renwick: From our internal needs assessment process.

5. Selig announced that a committee is being formed to address issues of handicapped accessibility to the Temple and invited members of the congregation to contact him about participating on the committee.

6. A motion by Melissa Woods, seconded by Andrea Newman, was unanimously approved to approve a proposal by the Board of Trustees to hire John Waite Associates of Albany and to enter into a contract with him for \$16,300 plus certain other reimbursable expenses to provide the services contained in his letters to the Board of Trustees.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jerry Silverman, recording secretary