

## **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** June 18, 2018  
**To:** Adat Shalom Board  
**From:** Judy Ackerman  
**RE:** Minutes from the June 6, 2019 Special Board Meeting  
to consider Location of Days of Awe Services

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**Present:** Jesse Abraham, Treasurer; Judy Ackerman, Secretary; Scott Arnold, At Large: Governance/Security; Sheila Blum, At Large Social Action; Gordon Cohen, VP Communications; Marla Cohen, Executive Director; Vanessa Eisemann, VP Membership Services; Marci Greenstein, VP Personnel; Jon Grossman, Past President; Rabbi Hazzan Rachel Hersh; Amy Jaslow, At-Large: LRP/Growth; Suzanne Kalfus, At Large Youth; Jodi Lipson, Torah School Council Chair; Shelley Sadowsky, Co-President; Hal Segall, Co-President; Harriet Shugerman, Past President; Shana Waggoner, VP Programming

**Not Present:** Miriam Eisenstein, VP Learning; Jennifer Sherman, Religious Practices; Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

**Guests from the Congregation who spoke:** Jeff Spieler, Phil Brunell, Michael Laufer, Marilyn Kresky-Wolf, Arthur Berger, Gerry Robinson, Sara Robinson, Evi Rezmovic, Barb Richman, Charlie Richman, Bruce Kutnick, Luther Jett, Phyllis Lerner, Audrey Lyon, Jeff Rich, Victor Katz, Gil Rosen

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Rabbi Hazzan Rachel provided initial comments and a prayer to help to frame the work of the Board for this special meeting. Board members then introduced themselves, mentioning their roles on the Board.

At the request of Co-President Hal Segall, Rabbi Hazzan Rachel addressed the reasons for wanting to hold Days of Awe services at Adat Shalom instead of Wootton High School. In the past we held services in a high school auditorium because we needed the space. She said that when we moved into our building she understood the power of architecture to shape communal experience and theology. She acknowledged that change is hard and that it takes some courage to take the step to hold High Holy Days services at Adat Shalom. She honors the process of decision making and will be wherever the Board decides to hold the services.

Marla Cohen spoke about the logistics of event planning for High Holiday services. First, however, she mentioned a national trend among Jews that's also evident in the

numbers attending Adat Shalom High Holy Days services in recent years: Many are not attending services for Rosh Hashana, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur; many are now only attending one service. The recent years' attendance figures for our High Holy Days services at Wootton indicate that we can accommodate our members and guests on our home turf.

A big concern is parking. She said that people will need to sign up for parking in the Adat Shalom lot and the lots at Carderock Elementary School (62 spaces) and Carderock swimming pool (60 spaces). The synagogue lot will have 24 reserved handicapped spaces and the rest of the spaces will be for cars carrying at least 3 people. There will be no double parking. Drivers will be permitted to drive to the front doors for passenger drop-off before parking. Vans will be used to ferry attendees from the off-site parking lots and will also pick up passengers who park along Lily Stone. Additional security guards will be hired. She said that a hybrid option – holding Rosh Hashana services at Adat Shalom and Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services at Wootton HS would be more complicated and harder on the staff. However the staff said that they would work with whatever was decided. She said that the library will have streaming of the service in the Sanctuary for those who do better with low stimulation. Marla indicated that the assumption in planning is that the service in the Sanctuary is the default service.

Jesse Abraham, Treasurer, provided information about the financial implications of each of the options.

Board members and congregants had the opportunity to ask questions. There were questions about the impact of noise from different services and activities, parallel options during peak attendance times, communication with neighbors, whether or not the move could be put off until 2020, security issues, sound assist systems, short timeline for notification about moving in 2019, parking concerns, how the move will be evaluated, childrens' programming, and traffic concerns near Adat Shalom.

Some congregants also offered comments, including support for the move from a hearing-impaired member, and opposition to the move from a member who did not want the congregation necessarily divided between separate, simultaneous services.

Both Board members and congregants expressed appreciation for the work that the senior and administrative staff undertook to determine the feasibility of holding High Holy Days services at Adat Shalom and the detailed information that was provided during the meeting.

**Motion** made and seconded to hold the 2019 High Holy Days services at Adat Shalom. Motion carried 9 for and 4 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.