



Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, May 21, 2023

Call to Order — 6:10pm by JoAnn Innerarity

Invocation — given by Rabbi Steve Gross

Confirmation of Quorum — A quorum was confirmed with 48 absentee votes

President's Report — JoAnn Innerarity

JoAnn thanked Melissa for her dedication to HCRJ for the last 15 years and thanked Adam Forman for his leadership for the past two years. She also thanked all the staff for their hard work at HCRJ especially during Covid. HCRJ has fully resumed all activities since Covid. Some of the committees in the by-laws have been removed because it was felt that some were not needed. The president gave Michelle Leben a gift for her service on the board.

Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting

The minutes were approved.

Nominations — Adam Forman

The slate of nominations of officers and new board members were presented.

Budget and Finance Report — Bruce Shelby

- Deficit — Bruce stated there is a projected deficit of \$21,000 for this year.
- Expenses — Security costs went up significantly this year. Funds, not from dues, is down \$25-30,000.
- Income from interest is up this year.
- For the past 5 years HCRJ has had a positive result at the end of the year.
- \$200,000 comes in for specific items. (example: Religious school windows from a security grant awarded to HCRJ).
- 50% of our budget is dues which does not cover operating costs. Dues fell off during Covid.
- Presently cash on hand is 1.6 million. 1 million is unrestricted. At this time, cash position of HCRJ is very strong.
- Increase for next year to members will be \$200 per family for security and 3% annual increase in dues. Next year there will be an increase in security costs and donations are down.
- Projected a \$12,000 surplus for next year.
- Larry Buck acknowledged the great job Bruce has done managing the budget.



Voting — JoAnn Innerarity

The motion on the slate of nominations of officers and new board members was presented and approved.

The motion on the committees was presented and approved.

The motion to approve the budget was presented and approved.

Rabbi's Report — Rabbi Steve Gross

Our theme for the year was faith. This can be a tricky combination. We embrace the idea of belonging to a faith-based community. The work done here tonight expresses faith itself. We all are accountable for the physical health of HCRJ. HCRJ is in good shape. We have seen growth in our religious school due to the dedication and hard work of Betti Buck and the religious school staff. Betti has woven in a greater vision of our religious school learning which is inclusive to a wide range of people. We have developed a choir and a band. The Rabbi thanked Mike Kahn for all his musical contributions to our services and programs. The Rabbi thanked Justin for his phenomenal job of programming for HCRJ. The Rabbi thanked all for their gifts of dues, fundraiser contributions, and Legacy pledges. The Rabbi thanked all the committees and the Board for their hard work. The Rabbi said goodbye to Melissa and wished her the very best in her new endeavor. The Rabbi also thanked his wife, Beckye, for all her support. The Rabbi stated the Temple has hired Beth Nelson for the position of Director of Communication and Engagement.

Year in Review Video — Justin Deutsch

Call for New Business — None

Benediction — Rabbi Steve Gross

Adjournment — 7:01 pm