

## TMF Board Meeting – October 7-9, 2016

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In attendance: Elaine Brown, Cindy Jones, Kevin Little, Rachel McRae, Emily Plunk, Wes Plunk, Steven Reece, Jo Siegienski

### Friday, 07 October

Meal at JoAnn's

Established quorum

Rachel opened us in prayer

Distributed & reviewed Roberts Rules of Order (see att 1)

Elected JoAnn as Meeting Chair

Adopted Agenda

Approved minutes of March board meeting

### 2016 Projects – Recap & Celebrate!

#### Krzepice – Kevin

- Polish speaker needed for this trip. Joe Vaughn's partnership was critical to the success of this project this year
- Goal: Maintenance self-sustaining by community
- Possible that work could have been completed w/ better cooperation from city
- Will require one more year to complete first pass through cemetery
- Kevin's Take-away: Less self-focused

#### Nasielsk – Steven

- Three working days in the cemetery
- Worked with Przemek, who is willing to partner and is now in a position to lead a project
- Steven emphasize a quote from Glen, "You are great people doing great work"
- Steven's Take-away: Meeting formally with the city prior to the project is critical

#### Markuszow – Rachel

- First time working with Jewish volunteers & descendants
- "We became part of their story"
- Entire cemetery cleared
- Memorial marker did not include recognition of TMF contribution
- Rachel's Take away: Priority to work with descendants
- Elaine's Take-away: Watching the transformation of the family was priceless
- Cindy's Take-away: Loved the interaction between Christian & Jew, didn't feel a divide

#### IHRA Project – Steven

- Surveyed 10 cemeteries near Oswiecim
- Work compelled Steven to redefine his own role and perception in this work on a larger scale

#### Oswiecim – Jo

- First project with an outside volunteer – everything went well on that front
- We partnered with seven different entities during this project. That highlights a bit

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- of the complexity involved with what we do
- Spoke about Piotr, his desires for next year & future years, and how we've already seen results from that

Hillary's summaries: We reviewed the summaries as we went through each project. Everyone agreed that they're a good thing and a great start!

Where do we go from here? At some point we should gather volunteer feedback.

Best Practices developed by Steven & Marla:

- 1) Common goals established prior to project
- 2) Worked collaboratively (and respectfully)
- 3) Local Liaison vital
- 4) TMF provided equipment, technical and financial mgmt. of project
- 5) Meeting with mayor (city officials) prior to project inception
- 6) Administrative support in securing permissions and installation of memorial (provided by Foundation of Forgotten, FODZ, etc)
- 7) Descendant involvement
- 8) Combined team met with local leadership prior to ceremony
- 9) Personal visits w/ neighbors raised awareness & attendance at ceremony
- 10) Communal housing & meals key element in building a sense of community and cooperation
- 11) Daily (evening & morning) debrief discussions facilitated dialogue
- 12) Collaborative pre-planning assisted in the execution or implementation of the project

Discussed future opportunities (See att 2)

Reflection Exercise (See att 3)

Discussion: If we're not just gardeners, what are we? Moral agents/moral voice?

Meeting adjourned for the evening

### **Saturday, 08 October**

Breakfast

Opened with prayer

Devotion: Steven

Ecc 4:9-12

"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. Also if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

This is a valuable argument for multiplying leadership (disciples). Working together brings

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unity, strength, and the ability to overcome opposition.

Luke 10:1-2 – Why partnership? Dying to self for the good of others

2 Timothy 2:2 – What we learn we need to pass on

Jesus' prayer was to glorify God (John 17). Is it ours?

Lack of unity prevents us from showing Christ

Abraham to Lot "Choose what you want, I'll take what's left"

Servanthood – we're becoming something we're not for the betterment of others

### Session 1: Organization structure & Founder's role – Steven

What do we need to be doing that we're not?

How do we assess and evaluate?

1. Executive Board vs Board & Advisory Board
2. Leadership vs Management
3. What is our purpose?
4. What type of projects will move us toward our purpose?
5. Educational initiative: teaching the Shoah
6. How do we adjust?

Break

### Session 2 - TMF Board Matters

1. Data Management - Elaine
2. Financial Policy - Kevin
3. Liability Insurance – Kevin
4. Meetings / calls - Jo

Lunch

### Session 3: Summer 2017 Projects – Steven/Jo

- Steven may need to be in Michigan June 25-28, 2017
- 2017 project options:
  1. Krzepice Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project (July 2013 to Present)
    - a. Partnering with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis
    - b. Partnering with Jola, Grzegorz & students of the Krzepice High School (for the 4<sup>th</sup> year)
    - c. June works best to include students
    - d. Status of building the wall by (European Jewish Cemetery Initiative) – matter is in hands of the local Conservator of Historical Monuments
    - e. No direct Jewish descendants involved
    - f. TMF Coordinator:
  2. Staffordshire IHRA Field Survey
    - a. Part of 2 year IHRA grant funded project
    - b. Joint partnership project between Staffordshire University, TMF and Fundacja Zapomniane
    - c. Site survey of Jewish cemeteries in the Warsaw or Lublin regions
    - d. TMF Coordinator: Steven Reece

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3. Social Action Project with Staffordshire IHRA
  - a. Lublin or Warsaw regional JC
  - b. Second year project in partnership with Dr Caroline Sturdy-Colls and Staffordshire University
  - c. Fundacja Zapomniane partnership (Alek & Agnieszka)
  - d. TMF Coordinator: Steven D. Reece
4. Fundacja Zapomniane – Clean and commemorate mass grave site (Aleks)
  - a. Site(s) to be determined
  - b. Selective participation
  - c. TMF Coordinator: Steven D. Reece
5. Shoah Course in Atlanta, GA
  - a. Course taught from Jewish and Christian perspectives
  - b. Co-taught by Jan Jaben-Eilon and Steven D. Reece
  - c. Location: The Temple, Atlanta, GA
  - d. TMF Coordinator: Steven D. Reece
6. Nasielsk JC
  - a. North of Warsaw
  - b. FODZ partnership
  - c. Work w/ Glenn Kurtz and Jewish descendant's group
  - d. Przemek & Susan may be able to assist
  - e. TMF Coordinator: Steven D. Reece and/or Przemek Panasiuk (?)
7. Przemośl JC
  - a. Northeast of Warsaw (on border of Poland and Lithuania)
  - a. FODZ partnership
  - b. Clean and clear
  - c. Possible commemoration
  - d. Direct involvement with Jewish descendant's group; raising funds, volunteers and resources
  - e. TMF Coordinators: Steven D. Reece and Przemek Panasiuk (?)
8. Studnie Pamięci w/Teresa Klimowicz
  - a. Near Lublin
  - a. Wieniawa JC, or
  - b. Wawcznica JC (near Majdanek)
  - c. Have requested help in learning to care for cemeteries
  - d. Donated trimmer to this group in 2016
  - e. TMF Coordinators:
9. Częstochowa JC
  - a. clean & clear
  - b. Possible signage for mass grave sites
  - a. Work with Alon Goldman of Tel Aviv
  - b. Engage and equip local leadership in care of cemetery
  - c. TMF Coordinators:
10. Oświęcim Jewish Cemetery (September 2011 to Present)
  - a. Aug time frame
  - b. Partnership with local Scouts, MSDM, ASF, and AJC
  - c. Fundacja Zapomniane partnership (Alek & Agnieszka)

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- d. May include Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls (depending on timing)
- e. TMF Coordinators:

Break

Session 4: Prioritizing internal projects - Jo

1. Identify Projects (Finance, document storage, etc)
2. Identify Priorities
3. Next Steps
4. Overview procedure to change priorities
5. Project spreadsheet - Rachel

Close

Evening out at Tupelo Honey

### **Sunday, 10 October**

- Worship at BBC
- Lunch
- Good-bye!