

DC Minyan Leadership Council Meeting
5/8/2018

Attendance

- Steering Committee: **Ross Broms, Josh Klein, Naomi Michaelis, Josh Nason**
- Immediate Past Steering Committee Member: **Jon Dine, Shira Margol**
- Community Relations: **Zach Stern**
- Hospitality: **Kaylin Bugos**
- Special Events: **Jay Lefkowitz**
- Finance: **Aaron Malinoff**
- Chinuch: **Annie Dreazen**
- Gabbai: **Ben Solomon-Schwartz**
- Parents and Kids: **Dari Pogach**

Two Minute Updates

- Parents and Kids: There are still paid positions available for shabbat morning programming.
- Special Events: Special Events for next year will depend on space availability.
- Chinuch: There have been issues with getting people to give divrei torah for Friday nights. Chinuch is coming up with alternatives, including written Divrei Torah.

10 and 10 Committee Report Discussion

Ben Solomon-Schwartz, as GC chair and 10 and 10 Committee Co-Chairperson provided background on the report and answered questions from the LC.

Background:

- Every member of the 10 and 10 committee was engaged in writing the report, including those who disagreed with the report's recommendation.
- This is not a report that any one committee member would have written; rather, it is the product of everyone's input, both the committee members and the community at large.
- In looking at the halachic issues themselves, halacha did not only allow, but in fact might compel a change in policy.

Questions from the LC:

- Question: Did you get a sense for the concern about our roster of people, some of them from more orthodox lineup, being willing to daven/leyn? Was that born out in evidence?

- Answer: Seems like there are very few people who would leave (both in terms of daveners/leyners and participants); at this point answers suggest that there are just as many people who would leave if we keep the status quo.
- Question: What is the expected reaction to the recommendation to add davening opportunities? Is there in fact an interest/desire to meet more?
 - Answer: Yes, but you have to break it down. For example, over first days of Passover this year, there was an informal poll to say - are there enough people to have a DC Minyan (10 and 10)? The answer was no, but Rebecca Gerr organized an egalitarian minyan that had good turnout. One good test will be adding davening (mincha) at events that we currently put on.
- Question: For the concern about there being fewer people who show up on time, can we actually get more people to show up on time?
 - Answer: We should be trying to get more people to show up on time to all davening.
- Question: Do you know if anyone changed their opinion while on the committee?
 - Answer: There were people that were skeptical that moved to yes, there were people that were uncertain and could see arguments in both directions and moved to yes. The things that influenced these people were the high level and engagement of the community, and their engagement over the course of the process.
- Question: Did the two people who voted against the recommendation vote for a halachic reason, or some other reason?
 - Some other reason. Everyone on the committee was personally convinced of the halacha, but didn't necessarily think it was the right decision for DC Minyan.
- LC Comment: The community is not unanimous in its support for this document, is it necessary for the LC vote to be unanimous?
 - Answer: No.
- Question: Is there an accompanying document with a dissenting opinion? Is that already incorporated into the current document?
 - Answer: There is no dissenting opinion, as all committee members, including those who dissented, approved and contributed to the final report.
- Question: One LC member does not disagree with changing the current policy, but has always been uncomfortable with this process of changing fundamental aspects of what the minyan is. As the LC and SC we are trustees, and this perhaps steps beyond that role. Should we be comfortable taking steps to make such a drastic change?.
 - Answer: There are legitimate concerns about fundamental changes to the minyan, but there is value to being part of a community that is able to have those conversations and make those changes.

Comments and Cautions:

- Comment: The committee's process did change this LC member's view of the halachic argument. At the beginning of the process the LC member thought the halacha was shaky, attended Rabbi Micha'el's lunch and learn and was taught about the origins of

why women are not counted in a minyan, that explanation ran counter to personal views, reinforced the opinion that this is a policy that makes sense to change.

- Caution: As a community, we should be mindful that there is equal participation among both (or all) genders moving forward. This would apply to both religious and nonreligious participation.
- If a change is made, and as the report calls for, a representative from the Minyan (10 and 10 committee) will contact those whose feedback form indicated that they are not in favor of the change.

Bylaw Text Change:

- This text was discussed at the LC meeting, and the final text was agreed to as follows:
- Section 1.2:
 - Seating at services is separate for men and women, with no mechitzah (divider), and we consider a minyan to consist of 10 Jewish adults regardless of gender. The Minyan uses the traditional liturgy in all of our services.
- Footnote:
 - Editor's Note: This provision was revised in May 2018 as a result of the Leadership Council's adoption of the recommendation of a committee convened under Article 8 of these bylaws to study the Minyan's "10-and-10 Policy." Prior to this change, Section 1.2 included the following language: "we wait for a quorum of ten women and ten men before reciting the central parts of the service (d'varim sh'biquasha)." The recommendation of the 10-and-10 Committee and a full explanation of the change are available on the Minyan's website.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the 10 and 10 Committee and update the bylaws as indicated above:

Yea: 13
Nay: 0
Present: 0

***This vote was confirmed via email on May 10 and 11, with responses as follows:**

Yea: 13
Nay: 0
Present: 0

Update on JCC Renovation and Alternative Venue:

- Each LC member will need to consider the best and worst case scenario for their portfolio as it relates to storage, events, and impacts to the budget.

- The JCC has not yet finalized a contract with Foundry, but has approval from the board for moving forward. DC Minyan, at this time, is not concerned about if a contract will be signed, but there is still uncertainty as to the exact details.
- For Friday and Saturday davening, Foundry will always be available, with preschool classrooms available for tot shabbat and other kids programming
- Kitchen Space: Foundry has not committed beyond limited refrigerator space. However, the JCC will likely have an extra refrigerator in the preschool area. We are operating under the assumption that we will have significantly less fridge space next year, which impacts Kiddush and Special Events. It will significantly impact our communal meals. In a best case scenario, we have all the fridge space we need and we won't need to worry about alternatives, but that might not be likely.
- We will most likely have adequate storage space for the ark, torah, and siddurim and chumashim. Beyond that, the JCC cannot guarantee anything.
- A significant issue will be that Foundry has not committed to providing space for any weekday meeting times. This includes Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur (when we will require additional capacity anyways), Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, and other weekday holidays. Our assumption is that we will need to investigate alternative space for anything not on shabbat, though hopefully Foundry will work out for those days in the end.

Shavuot Retreat

- As a reaction to several recurring annual complaints registered in post-retreat feedback as well as informal settings, the SC opened a discussion internally to examine the Shavuot retreat. The conversation centered around:
 - Defining the goals of the Shavuot retreat, and whether or not we are achieving those goals.
 - Making sure we are meeting the needs of the community, and that as the community evolves we are meeting those changing needs.
