

DC Minyan Community Meeting and  
Leadership Council Meeting  
February 20, 2018

Attendance:

- Steering Committee: Ross Broms, Josh Klein, Naomi Michaelis, Josh Nason
- Finance: Aaron Malinoff
- Community Relations: Zach Stern
- Special Events: Jay Lefkowitz
- Gabbai: Ben Solomon-Schwartz
- Hospitality: Kaylin Bugos

Absent:

- Immediate Past Steering Committee Members: Jon Dine, Shira Margol
- Chinuch: Annie Dreazen
- Parents and Kids: Dari Pogach

Update on JCC Renovation

- The JCC will be going through renovations beginning in late August/early September and will be unusable for 10 months to a year. Once renovations are complete, the JCC will continue to be a great venue for DC Minyan.
- As a result of the renovation, DC Minyan will need to find a temporary home. The JCC is in the process of moving most operations to the Foundry Church, and this includes the option for all three minyanim (DC Minyan, Rosh Pina, and Beit Mishpacha) to move to Foundry as well and retain their contracts with the JCC. Members of the Steering Committee and Venue Search Committee met with Bini (COO of the JCC) earlier today (2/20) to take a tour of the potential space.
- Takeaways from the tour:
  - There are 2 potential useable large meeting spaces, the “Community commons,” which is slightly larger than the community hall, and the “Fellowship hall,” which is smaller than the gym but bigger than the community hall. Both are large enough for many of our needs, and have some limited iconography or items that would need to be covered up for our use. There is the potential to use one space for davening and the other for kiddush.
  - There are additional classrooms that can be used for tot shabbat and other shabbat morning concurrent programming.
- Halachic implications:
  - The gabbai committee has been in contact with Rabbi Ethan Tucker, DC Minyan’s halachic advisor, and we have received guidance that the space is permissible to use as a temporary davening venue. For more information about this, please email [SC@dcminyan.org](mailto:SC@dcminyan.org) or [Gabbai@dcminyan.org](mailto:Gabbai@dcminyan.org).
- The Steering Committee and Venue Search Committee are still in conversation with the JCC about many details that still need to be worked out with Foundry, including storage, kitchen use (and access to refrigerators), shomer shabbat access to the building, and

availability of the space for all chagim in addition to Friday Night and Saturday Morning. If we proceed with this arrangement, Foundry would be our standard space for regular Friday Night and Saturday Morning davening, and we would potentially have to find alternative space for some of the weekday holidays, large meals, and high holiday davening.

- Our Venue Search Committee is committed to finding appropriate space for all Minyan events.

Questions about the space/renovation from the community:

- Q: Is there a cost difference? How will that impact the minyan?
  - A: In this scenario, we would be subcontracting with the JCC and retain our contract with them. Our costs will stay the same, and JCC would cover any change in their costs for providing the space. The actual amount of our contract will likely depend on how much we use the Foundry space, but our cost per usage would be the same.
- Q: Can the halachic justification for use of the space be made public / available?
  - A: In the event that we move forward with this space, we will make sure to make any documentation needed available to the community.
- Q: As part of tour/discussions did we discuss multiple spaces that we use?
  - A: Yes. There are multiple spaces that can be used. Foundry does not typically operate on Friday night and Saturday mornings, which alleviates some of the potential for bottleneck.
- Q: After renovations are complete, have we talked with the JCC about what our davening space will be? Storage space? Tot shabbat? Will there be shomer shabbat access?
  - A: We are in the process of having those conversations, and will continue to be in touch with the JCC as the renovation progresses to make sure that our needs are heard.
- Q: Who will be in charge of maintenance at the new space?
  - A: The majority of JCC operations will move to Foundry, which includes janitors and maintenance.
- Q: Will we have ample storage space during the renovation?
  - A: While nothing is set in stone, there should be ample space at Foundry to store our Aron, siddurim, and other minyan infrastructure. The JCC will not be available during the renovation for any type of storage.
- Q: Is there a backup plan?
  - A: The Venue committee is examining other potential locations.
- Q: Does this move open up davening opportunities that we don't currently have?
  - A: We don't know the answer to that yet.
- Q: If we are not getting a ton of storage space, can we look into other storage space?
  - A: We will do our best to have as much convenient storage space as we need.
- Q: With the complicated schedule alternating with Rosh Pina and Beit Mishpacha, will Foundry have the flexibility to accommodate that?

- A: Because there are 2 large spaces, Foundry will be able to accommodate the current schedules of all 3 minyanim that meet at the JCC. We are all dealing with uncertainty, but the goal is to maintain the core schedule of all of the minyanim.
- Q: What is the timeline/process for making a decision?
  - A: We are waiting to hear from the JCC the results of their conversations with Foundry about storage space, kitchen access, and other questions. In the next few weeks the JCC will finalize with Foundry and we can make an informed decision. The goal is to do this as quickly as possible in order to solidify our plans for the year ahead.
- Q: What will the security be at Foundry?
  - A: The JCC is moving their entire operation over there, and will continue to be responsible for building security.

#### Update on Grant Applications

- DC Minyan is in the process of applying for a grant to help with the costs of our Shavuot retreat, which is our largest budget item. Historically we have operated the retreat at a deficit while offering subsidized pricing to members, and this grant would help offset that deficit.

#### Ten and Ten Committee - Recap and Discussion

- The Ten and Ten committee provided an update on the status of the ongoing review of the Minyan's quorum-counting policy, and presented some of the feedback heard at the parlor meetings held in recent months.
- The committee then facilitated a discussion about the process for examining our policy to "wait for a quorum of ten women and ten men before reciting the central parts of the service (d'varim sh'b'iqdusha)" (DC Minyan Bylaws). The committee provided statements from the parlor meetings to spark discussion and reaction from the community.
- The committee is finalizing their report, which they will present to the Steering Committee, as outlined in the bylaws:

Any recommendations of this committee shall be brought before the Steering Committee for review. The Steering Committee shall present any recommendations of the ad hoc advisory committee, along with recommendations by the Steering Committee regarding the advisability of the ad hoc advisory committee's proposals, to the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council shall determine the application of the ad hoc advisory committee's recommendations to the Minyan. Should the Leadership Council accept the ad hoc advisory committee's recommendations, these bylaws will be considered amended to the extent necessary to allow for such halakhic or other decisions.

- More details regarding this process and the results of the discussions will be available in the future. Please email [tenandten@dcmnyan.org](mailto:tenandten@dcmnyan.org) with any questions about the process.