

DC Minyan Leadership Council Meeting
11/20/2017

Attendance:

- Steering Committee: Josh Klein, Naomi Michaelis, Jon Dine, Shira Margol (phone)
- Immediate Past Steering Committee Members: Natalie Lascar Lefkowitz, Nicki Bodner
- Hospitality: Kaylin Bugos
- Special Events: Josh Nason
- Community Relations: Zach Stern
- Gabbai: Ben Solomon-Schwartz
- Finance: Aaron Malinoff
- Chinuch: Annie Dreazen

Absent

- Kids and Parents: Dari Pogach

Two Minute Updates

- Annie Dreazen (Chinuch): We are actively recruiting a Saturday morning DT coordinator. Planning for the next Lunch and Learn is ongoing in coordination with Social Action. Topics may include the treatment of the stranger (ger) and tanach views on interaction with outsiders. Chinuch will be applying for a grant in the near future to help defray scholar in residence costs.
- Zach Stern (Community Relations): Alana Chill will be transitioning the membership portfolio, as she will be moving away from DC. We are hoping for this to occur in early Spring so there will be an overlap to allow for transition. A message about our new "clusters" will be sent shortly. Currently there are two clusters: museums, and board games. The clusters will have events every 6-8 weeks. We are working to create a DC Minyan members only LinkedIn group as well, and are currently looking for someone to coordinate Festivus with Keshet and Rosh Pinah. The Havdallah event with the Federation was poorly attended.
- Ben Solomon Schwartz (Gabbai): We will be looking for a new gabbai in the next few months. Ben's transition to the Gabbai Chair has been very smooth.
- Kaylin Bugos (Hospitality): The Sukkah hop was well attended and successful. Mystery guest shabbat was poorly attended, perhaps because it was on Veteran's Day. We will keep this in mind for calendar planning in the future. Hospitality will begin coordinating with Leadership Council members to host meals for new DC Minyan members
- Josh Nason (Special Events): The 10 and 10 Lunch and Learn/aufruf event (from an event standpoint) went quite well. However, we should avoid holding a kiddush and lunch on the same day if possible. Using both rooms (gym and community hall) was helpful and may be a good idea for future Steering Committee lunches as they are larger meals that require a lot of setup. For weeks when we have a lunch/event and someone is looking to sponsor a kiddush, we can have someone sponsor a part of the lunch (drinks, dessert, cocktails, etc.).

- Dari Pogach (Kids and Parents) (via Josh): Deb Saxon and Nechama Malkiel are running Middle Minyan, while Stacey Apter has taken over Tot Shabbat. Miriam Szubin has been coordinating Midrash Minyan, but we are still actively looking for a paid teach to lead either or both of Middle Minyan or Midrash Minyan. The minyan is willing to pay more for a quality teacher if that is the market rate.
- Jon Dine (SC): The Bereavement Committee is working to make our communal support page address more than just baby meals, while the Gabbaim are creating a bereavement gabbai guide.

Ad Hoc Kiddush Discussion:

- In regards to Kiddush sponsorships, it may be worth considering adding an extra tier or finding out how many guests are expected to better anticipate food needs without additional costs to the Minyan.
 - Action Item: Kiddush to update their form to include an ask for information regarding additional attendees in order to plan accordingly.

10 and 10 Committee Updates (Jon Dine):

- Dena Roth and Ben Solomon Schwartz have taken over as co-leads of the 10 and 10 Committee. Nicki Bodner has stepped down from the committee.
- The Lunch and Learn was very positively received both in format and content. As intended, it has led to strong feedback from members.
- Registration for Parlor Meetings is open and the meetings will run for a month. Additional outreach may occur based on attendance.
- In January, a community meeting will be held to discuss the results of the parlor meetings. Notes from the parlor meetings will be posted in advance so that this community meeting is not a rehash.
- After the community meeting (and potentially before Passover), the Ten and Ten Committee will provide their recommendation to the SC, who will aim to make a decision and recommendation to the LC before Shavuot.

Insurance and Babysitting Update (Josh Klein)

- Our new insurance policy covering physical and sexual abuse went into effect the night before Rosh Hashana. This new insurance policy covers all of our general liability and includes our offsite locations (storage unit, Shavuot Retreat location).
- Part of this process included having all families who participate in childcare sign a waiver, and having background checks for our main babysitter(s).

Social Action update (Naomi Michaelis):

- The Social Action Refugee Subcommittee met on November 19 to open the conversation to the community about what comes next in our partnership with the Lutheran Social Services.. The community has quickly responded to the request for donations, and we are prepared to move a family in as soon as we can get on the schedule. DC Minyan has requested financial support in addition to items, and this will

be included in announcements. The committee is exploring options for fundraising for this effort. There has also been a suggestion to add more lines to the spreadsheet for cash and grocery cards, which has already been implemented.

High Holiday Feedback and Discussion:

- We received a lot of positive feedback was received regarding the daveners, leyners, and divrei torah, along with some negative feedback regarding the room's temperature and lighting.
- Many of the new machzors that have not yet been dedicated, we plan to use this as an avenue to raise funds before High Holidays 2018.
- Printed guides for High Holidays have been updated with Koren page numbers, and will be available next year.
- Older kids are sitting in services instead of being in babysitting, and should be counted in our numbers for when we close registration.

JCC Renovations and potential next steps (SC)

- The JCC is planning to renovate starting in August 2018. As we understand it, they plan on making a very large multipurpose room instead of a gym, which will be about the same size as the current gym and the fitness center will be moved to the basement floor. The first floor will be updated and more open, eliminating the library and classrooms from there and moving all preschool classrooms to the 3rd and 4th floor, with restricted access. The roof will be turned into an enclosed outdoor space. There are also plans to make improvements to the 16th Street lobby (acoustics).
- We do not know at this time how much of the building, including the community hall, will be available during the construction.
- The new multipurpose room (former gym space) will be a performance/art space with retractable seating. Even though it will have its own seating, we will still fit all the chairs we need for High Holidays.
- The JCC board is setting up a committee to ensure that those who need space will find it. At this time, we don't know how successful they will be, but we are fortunate to have members and other advocates of DC Minyan on the JCC board.
- In addition to the assistance the JCC plans to provide us, DC Minyan will be setting up a committee to search for alternative locations for 2018-2019.
- Decisions about the suitability of venues will be made as we move along in this process (churches, etc.).
- Action items:
 - Meet with the JCC and if needed, renegotiate the contract for 2018-2019
 - Start a separate committee to look for spaces for High Holidays and ongoing davening (Friday night and Saturday morning) and other events.

SC Selection Committee:

- LC representatives will be Annie Dreazen, Kaylin Bugos, and Natalie Lascar Lefkowitz, who will serve on the committee along with the current Steering Committee.

Budget Update

- Outstanding membership dues are being slowly paid, but there are still members with large outstanding balances.
- Babysitting cost are high, we need to consider additional options for cost sharing between the minyan and parents for babysitting.
- We project that there will be a budget deficit for the 2017-2018 budget cycle. We have begun looking at alternatives to our membership dues to offset the shortfall.

Membership Final Update and notes for next year

- There have been 193 memberships renewed. There are 52 accounts that are still outstanding but we anticipate that the majority of those will be renewing.
- Including associate members, we have 23 new members, which is net growth for the minyan. We added 4 Young professionals memberships, a new membership category for this year.
- In total, we have 433 adult members, 393 of whom are full members.

Major Issues Raised From Community Meeting:

- Building out the ShulCloud directory by having the community update their address, birthdays, yartzeits, etc.
 - Some methods to accomplish this could be a google form, requiring addresses for tax forms, and/or a one time email to confirm addresses.
- Starting a development committee possibly separate from the LC to look at other sources of funding for the minyan including grants and fundraising more strategically.
 - Aaron Malinoff (Finance) is looking into setting up a path to donate stocks and/or securities. There are good tax benefits for that.
 - We are checking to see if we qualify for the Combined Federal Campaign.
 - We are not ready to put this committee in place at this time, but may in the future.
- Should we change the Shavuot Retreat to a Shabbaton. There has been some disappointment in an inability to identify the goal of the Shavuot retreat and people not showing up for the tikkun and davening.
 - Attendance at the tikkun might be better this year because it is a 3 day chag with shabbat coming first
 - We should discuss this before signing the contract for Shavuot 2019.