

Leadership Council Meeting
May 20, 2014

In attendance: Danny Alpert, Beth Tritter, Dena Roth, Eytan Apter, Jessica Torch, Daniel Havivi, Rebecca Gerr, Adina Alpert, Shira Broms, Daniel Chiat, Aaron Malinoff

2 Minute Updates

Jessica: We are going to start with a quick two minute update

Adina: Lag Baomer BBQ was on Sunday. 150 people were there between all 3 Minyans. We probably won't do it next year as Lag Baomer is on a Wednesday. Only good things to say.

Daniel Chiat: DC Beit Midrash. Things are solid. There is a break over Memorial Day weekend. We are going to do two or three bigger meals over the course of the year. Aiming to do one in June.

With regards to survey, there is a meeting on Tuesday 5/27 with the SC at the Measuring Success headquarters on the results and breakdown.

Shira: With intern season upon us, the number of requests for hospitality will increase. If you can encourage people to welcome interns, that would be great.

Danny: Adina had a great program.

Beth: We're back in transition phase on Tot Shabbat. A lot of confusion about spaces. We are now putting younger kids upstairs (can run around and stay self contained). Has resulted in fewer kids downstairs. Middle kids will be in Classroom 1. At suggestion of Miriam Szubin, an email will go out to the P&K listserve that will include information about Shabbat. Going to help with regards to the timing of tot shabbat and establish a set time. Some of the parents of the older kids are getting frustrated that the older kids are not coming.

Dena: Pass

Eytan: Shavuot preparations are ongoing, we are nearly all filled up and may end registration soon. Today the coordinators sent out a form to provide bio info about the participants. On the retreat, the SC will lead a community discussion about increasing participation by our community members. We also plan to use info we get from the survey about how to guide and focus the discussion.

Jessica: Pass

Daniel Havivi: We have had a better run with kiddush sponsors, but still need work on getting more oneg sponsors. We are also looking to get more volunteers to help with kiddush set up.

Aaron: I have sent budgets to all LC members, please get them back to me. As far as Shavuot goes, there is one question about whether kids under 1 year are charged. Answer is no.

Rebecca: we are preparing for Shavuot, so there is a lot to do and we are also looking for some extra help on the retreat. There is a Sunday Rosh Chodesh on June 29th, which is an opportunity to do a morning davening and maybe bagels. Also have Tisha Ba'av on the radar.

Discussion of Anonymous \$10,000 Donation

Jessica: this is our main topic tonight, as many of you know we received an anonymous donation of \$10k without any strings attached. We are also getting additional funds from EJJ next year. We propose to come up with 3 ideas about how to spend the \$10k and bring the 3 ideas to the entire community at a meeting for a vote. We think this is also a way to incentivize attendance at the meeting.

Eytan: also, the programs do not need to cost \$10k, we can come up with ideas that cost less and then the LC can decide how to spend the balance.

Rebecca: another option is to flip this around and give the community an opportunity to run programs with two \$5k grants.

Danny: we did not aggressively market the Schusterman grant, but did not get much response.

Eytan: I think having the meeting and the 3 ideas is easier to manage, and also, we do not necessarily need to say what each program costs because the price tag does not matter as much as the community's involvement and input.

Daniel Chiat: we should also take into account the results of the survey to make some data driven decisions.

Beth: is there a time frame for spending the money?

Dena: no, it is just a donation with no strings attached.

Adina: I think we seem to be inclined toward putting the money toward something we could not have done before (as opposed to some grants that go toward maintaining essential existing programs).

Rebecca: I am guessing the donor visited our community.

Dena: Our proposal right now is that we the LC come up with ideas, and then we can revisit the ideas once we get the survey analysis to make sure we've incorporated community feedback that came through the survey.

Beth: my idea is to have a bar mitzvah party for the Minyan for its 13th year. This could be a fun way to spend the money and celebrate the Minyan. Or, we could spend the money on having a 3 days kids' camp on next year's 3 day retreat.

Eytan: we can probably put next year's EJJ grant toward that, as well as keeping the cost down.

Danny: are we seeing the \$20k EJJ grant as just an \$8k bump from last year's \$12k grant? I don't think we should see it as fixed income supporting specific programs.

Dena: I don't think we are approaching the EJJ grant quite as fixed, but we will use previous grant spending as a basis for a discussion. We know, for example, that we need to use it toward community dinners, and EJJ has asked that we put some of it toward Hadar programming.

Eytan: I think we need to start thinking about an alumni network, and putting some money toward maintaining that network. It probably would be a small portion. There may come a time that we need to do a capital campaign, and an alumni network will be important. We could start a quarterly letter and an event.

Danny: that sounds like an ongoing cost, as opposed to a one time program. We would need to build that into the budget and also create a position to oversee it.

Aaron: I support buying new machzorim and megillah books so we don't have to rely on packets. I also support putting the money toward better space for HH.

Eytan: one issue is that the \$10k would probably only last two years for a venue, and then we'd be back in the gym. But, we could stretch the money out if we only got a venue for Yom Kippur.

Adina: I support the bar mitzvah party. I think it encompasses a suggestion I had which was to come up with something to make the Minyan "cool" again. [Dena is in disbelief that DCM is not cool!] Another idea is 6 Shabbat morning davenings in 6 weeks and make a big push for participation.

Rebecca: we should see if we can sustain that before we budget against it.

Jessica: a wrinkle in that is that the JCC is not available consecutive weeks.

Danny: I think we should be less hesitant to propose programs that will become permanent budget items because the truth is our membership dues are very low and we can always consider raising dues.

Aaron: plus, we have savings.

Eytan: what about funding a social action program, like getting DCM to do Habitat for Humanity for a day.

Shira: this could be folded into the bar mitzvah idea -- a volunteer project to go along with the party.

Jessica: I agree we should do a volunteering component.

Beth: instead of a weekend, we could designate February DCM month and do a service project, a frivolous party, a scholar in residence, and stretch it out over 3 weeks.

Eytan: we could have a shabbat with all new torah readers.

Shira: we could also fold existing programs into that month, for example, doing a mystery guest shabbat that same month.

Daniel Havivi: I want a new shtender.

Jessica: we do need fix the aron as well.

Rebecca: do we want to try to do a more formal relationship with a halachic advisor, including counseling services, etc?

Danny: the survey data will be instructive on that point.

Eytan: this might be hard to do without having a name in mind to propose.

Danny: what if we reframed this conversation entirely and thought about what we can pilot -- i.e. what can we do successfully, and then see if we can devote more funds to it.

Daniel Chiat: what about support for affinity groups, so rather than connecting people through big events, but come up with 3-4 groups like a business networking group, a softball team, etc and provide support for those kinds of entry points into the community.

Danny: what about a dedicated fund for emergency loans for members? It would be good if our members had a place to turn to if they have a problem.

Rebecca: do we need this donation for that purpose, or can we rely on the DCM's savings for that purpose?

Danny: that is a good point, and I will follow up with Talya Bock who offered to assist with this.

Eytan: should we move forward by eliminating things that we don't need the donation? Like the alumni network may not cost anything, and Shavuot kids camp may be covered by the EJF grant, in addition to the Hadar programming.

Daniel Chiat: another idea is a DCBM Kollel where we compensate higher level learners, with an expectation that the members teach shiurim, etc.

Rebecca: what about sponsoring a DCM member to go to Pardes, Mechon Hadar, or another learning program? We could require that person to do x, y, z for us for the following year.

Dena: I am going to propose that we winnow our list down to sending someone to learn, the bar mitzvah party, and the machzorim.

Eytan: I think sending someone to learn could have complications in terms of who to send, where, etc.

Adina: I propose that after your survey meeting, you send out a list and we can rank or vote over survey monkey or email.

Beth: I was going to suggest babysitting during shul.

Danny: I would say that any ideas that were one-off costs, we try to fit into our budget and use EJF and dues. I think we should focus this money on pilot programs.

Adina: it strikes me how many of these ideas we could just do.

Dena: so we will follow up with the LC next week after our survey meeting with a list of these ideas and others that may come up from the survey feedback, and have you rank or vote. We can then address any ideas regarding actual costs of the proposed programs, and also consider at that point if there are a few programs we want to do regardless of the community meeting and fit into the existing budget.

Jessica: I will email next week to schedule our next meeting at the end of June.

The LC counted omer.

Meeting concluded at 8:50 pm.