

Community Facility Update

The Community Facilities Utilization Committee has been working to fulfill its mandate to make a recommendation to the Jewish Federation's Executive Board with respect to the proceeds of the sale of the JCC lands. We reiterate: not a penny of this money has been spent or otherwise allocated.

The committee is governed by the following guiding principles:

- Transparent and consultative process;
- Forward-looking and inclusive;
- Financially responsible.

Information on how you can obtain a detailed copy of these guiding principles, the committee's terms of reference, and other materials relative to the ambassador program are available at the end of this article.

Transparent and consultative process - the ambassador program was concluded successfully in April. The program began in December, 2013 and was open for participation to any member of the community. Requests for participation were published in the J-Fed E-weekly, and two direct mail letters were sent to all members of The Jewish Federation of Edmonton (JFED). In total, there were 26 meetings with 209 participants, and 13 forms submitted by mail to JFED's office. In order to be transparent with the process and its results, we are making the information available to the community. This includes: the independent consultant's final report, the summaries of the meetings, and the meeting notes themselves - with participants names' removed, as promised to the participants.

The word cloud illustration shown above is an indication of the results of the input gathered from the meetings. The size of the word represents how often it was mentioned. This community engagement process has been as inclusive as possible, and we would like to thank everyone who attended or hosted a meeting for their input.

The committee has had preliminary meetings regarding potential partnerships with Beit Horim, Talmud Torah, and Beth Israel. These discussions have been conceptual in nature and no commitments have been made to anyone.

What now?

The committee is open to discussions with any Jewish organization to discuss potential synergies and partnerships. We will be striking sub-committees over the summer and fall months in order to meet effectively with representatives from boards of interested organizations.

Based on these meetings we will be presenting the community with scenarios for feedback at town hall meetings which will tentatively be held October 22nd, 29th and November 2nd, 2014. We encourage you to register to attend one of these meetings by contacting the JFED office at events@edjfedor.org . Information regarding input received, as well as the processes of the Community Facilities Utilization Committee can be found at <http://www.jewishedmonton.org/facilities.aspx> .

We would like to thank all of the committee members for the many hours of devoted service they have committed to moving this initiative forward.

Respectfully,
Clive Oshry

Chair, Community Facilities Utilization Committee