



Panel 5a Meeting 1 Notes 10.20.2014

Panel Members (all in attendance):

Jon Parritz (chair), Holly Brod-Farber, Mark Adelman, Kris MacDonald, Todd Lifson

Staff: Nora Murphy, David Milavetz

Background of Community Planning Process

- Jon introduced the meeting giving the panel background on the St. Paul community planning process, and the results of the Listening Sessions. He also reviewed the prior work of Yoav Segal and Steve Lear.
- The group had questions about some of the details in the Listening Session data, but largely seemed to understand the process and the results.
- There was discussion on the degree to which cooperation between the cities was a priority for each community.
- All of the panel members have the support of their respective Federations for their participation in the panel.
- There was discussion on the process of the panel, how long it would take and what the information gathering and recommendation phases might look like. The first part of Panel 5 will focus on research, including the results of the other panels. The second phase will generate recommendations, which will begin with draft suggestions which will be presented to the Steering Committee and each Federation Board for input. The last step will be publishing final recommendations.

What's worked/What hasn't worked

- There was extensive conversation on what has or has not worked in regards to cooperation between the St. Paul and Minneapolis Jewish communities.
- Examples of dozens of agencies and projects with varying degrees of cooperation were discussed.
- It was generally agreed that those which have been based on a high degree of largely successful cooperation include Cardozo, Maimonides, Lion of Judah, Food for the Soul, The Twin Cities Jewish Prom, the JDC event, JCRC, Sholom, TC Jewfolk, MN Jewish Theatre, MN Historical Society, and, recently, the JCCs and Hillel.
- Other collaborative efforts have had more mixed results, including Yom Haatzmaut, youth programming, young adult programming, and sharing of visiting speakers, performers and artists.
- Problems coordinating federation funding of "bi-city" agencies, such as JCRC and Hillel, were discussed.
- Some areas are not collaborative at all, such as formal youth education.
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- One suggested reason why some activities are not done cooperatively is inertia, or a “business-as-usual” approach. Other reasons include a desire to maintain communal or organizational distinctiveness.
- There is an expectation among some members of the community that people live and work in their own communities. Several panel members shared the experience of showing up at an event “across the river” and having people from that community express surprise that they were there.
- Although everyone in the panel is very involved in Jewish communities, it was agreed that no one knew everything that was happening in regards to cooperation between St. Paul and Minneapolis. This highlighted the need to better publicize and celebrate the good cooperative partnerships that are already happening.
- **Action Item:** Develop a document for internal panel use that summarizes the panel members’ ideas on what has and has not worked regarding cooperation between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Literature Review

David presented the results of his literature review. It was very helpful and informative. The panel agreed that additional research was necessary on models of successful collaboration among other Jewish communities like ours which have multiple population and organizational centers.

Important points moving forward

While the scope of Panel 5a is on research, it was important to take a broad view of the work for both 5a and 5b. These important points emerged.

- **Tone of the panel:** The focus of the work is positive and asset-based. “We want to be positive, we don’t want just to kvetch. We want to face the stuff head-on and inspire the community.”
- **Attending the past helps people look to the future:** “We have to give people the ability to air what they’re not comfortable with in the past to change for the future.”
- **Changing the narrative:** Help tell the story of what’s already happening and working. “There’s much more that’s working than isn’t working.”
- **Big vision with small wins:** Change will be incremental. We need a reasonably ambitious and achievable vision, and concrete achievable suggestions for changes which will produce tangible improvement, which will be visible and appreciated across the community.



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- “Maybe a way to be successful is to find areas that are working so that gradually we can do things a little bit better so that gradually it becomes the norm.”
- **Trust building** between communities and community members is essential.

Action Items

- David let the panel know that he was meeting to gather information from St. Paul Agency Executives, Rabbi’s and Lay Leaders.
- Panel members agreed that it is important to also interview and talk with Minneapolis counterparts. We need to develop a list of people to talk to and a process for doing so.
- Revisit the literature review to make sure we have literature that addresses the topic areas/“important points” listed in the previous section.
- David is interviewing a JFNA staff person who is familiar with other community collaboration efforts.
- The panel will strive to meet at least once/month, with active work taking place between meetings.