In the last few years, it has been clear to Calgary Jewish Federation that we need to do some appropriate planning to address the ultimate redevelopment of the Jewish Community Centre and to consider the creation of a Jewish Campus to meet the needs not only of the Jewish Community, but the community at large.

Our existing centre was built in 1979; it is outdated and we are fortunate to be able to address future needs in the context of the former (and still vacant) Patterson lands that were acquired by Calgary Jewish Community Council over a decade ago.

The Campus Development committee, under the Jewish Federation’s directive and with the assistance of the Calgary JCC, have undertaken a number of studies including: Building Evaluation studies of existing facilities; a Senior’s “Aging in Place” housing opportunities report; Community Centre Detailed Programming Review and Day Care Needs Assessment; a transportation study; and a study on Jewish day school education and future needs of our community.

The Building Evaluation Study conducted by Gibbs-Gage revealed that the majority of the existing infrastructure has reached its effective life cycle and the existing program areas do not reflect the present needs of facility user groups. Based on this, it has been determined that re-purposing and/or additions to the existing JCC building structure is not cost effective.

Just a few months ago, Calgary JCC commissioned David Hewko, a Planning and Program Management Consultant specializing in Rec Centres, to assess the facilities’ needs. He concluded that the size of the recreation facility should be around 40,000 square feet to create a multi-use intergenerational facility to meet not only the needs of the Jewish community but also as a much needed recreational facility in the Southwest of Calgary, especially in light of the permanent closure of the Haysboro YMCA.

The Seniors Aging in Place Feasibility study was conducted to determine the market and financial feasibility of developing an expanded Jewish seniors’ living facility. Such a facility is viewed as being complementary to the existing seniors’ residential facility as well as the JCC’s social and cultural aspirations. The feasibility report recommended a total of 120 seniors apartments and 120 assisted living units.

Transportation reviews conducted by Stanton found that recent road changes have improved transportation movement in the area. The proposed Calgary Jewish Campus will be well supported during its development with approved future transportation infrastructure including the Southwest ring road and the Southwest Transitway (BRT – Bus Rapid Transit).

We have produced conceptual designs which give a general view of our intended redevelopment. The plan provides for internal circulation on the campus site, reducing disturbances to adjacent communities. Our concept places a very significant landscape buffer along the south portion of the block (92 Avenue) with the focus of the major new development to be on the north side of the site facing 90 Avenue and over to 14 Street.

In light of the recommendations we have received and Federation’s assessment of community needs, we are now ready to go forward with a Land Use Redevelopment process.

Land Use (Zoning) is the legal definition of what can be built and the uses allowed on a specific piece of land. The land use approval obtained when the community acquired the Patterson lands in 2002 no longer meets our needs and must be refined. The Campus Development Team, with the support of our consultants, has developed a strategy for a revised Direct Control Land Use Redevelopment, which addresses the updated needs as well as providing maximum flexibility for future phased growth. Essentially, the DC Land Use Redevelopment will be a very general template.

In advance of submitting our Redevelopment application, last week, Federation hosted meetings to inform the Jewish community and our neighbours about our intentions for the campus development.

The phasing of the various elements of the new campus (JCC, seniors’ facility, schools) will evolve over the next 10-20 years. During that time, the various elements of the proposed redevelopment will require specific development permit applications, each of which will give rise to much more specific detail and a corresponding need for considerable review with all affected parties prior to approval.

So the approval of the Land Use doesn’t end the process; it’s really just a beginning of a lengthy but very exciting process. We anticipate obtaining our Land Use Redevelopment in the next 12 months.

We want to thank the members of the Campus Development Committee: Bruce Libin, President of the Calgary Jewish Federation; Drew Staffenberg, CEO of the Jewish Federation; Gerry Barron, a past president of the Jewish Federation; David Martin and Mark Scharf, members of our Jewish Community and experts in Senior Care and Housing Facilities; and our highly qualified team of consultants who are helping us through this development process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact members of the campus team for more information.

Lorne Paperny
Chair, Campus Development Committee

Mark Zivot
Member, Campus Development Committee

Board member, Calgary Jewish Federation

We’re sad to see them go... But say good-bye we must

Calgary Jewish Federation invites you to come “H’call” with us on Sunday, November 23, 7pm at Beth Tzedec Congregation to celebrate the end of another year in our film festival season. We will show a selection of the best films we’ve seen this past year along with a “Best of the Best” film. There will be a dessert reception and chance to win prizes. There is no charge for admission.

For more information, contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

Kristallnacht

7:00PM SCREENING OF THE FILM
50 CHILDREN: THE RESCUE MISSION OF MR. & MRS. KRAUS
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BETH TZEDEC FILM FESTIVAL
A SHORT CEREMONY WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE SCREENING
THE EVENING IS FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
LILIANA KRYGIER LAPIDES AT 403-444-3162 OR
IKRYGIERLAPIDES@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

Calgary Jewish Federation welcomes and supports children and adults with special needs. If you or a loved one needs special accommodations to participate in any of our events, please contact Karina Szulc, Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator at 403-444-3158 or kszulc@jewishcalgary.org.

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