

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings and the JCC process

A message from the Community Facilities Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton

The CFU Committee of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton will be holding Town Hall meetings on April 15th, 26th and 27th. These meetings will be the culmination of the latest work of the committee and we hope you can attend and participate.

At the meetings, which will be professionally facilitated, the following will take place:

There will be a presentation summarizing the work of the Committee from the beginning, and then there will be a presentation of two possible site options for a new Edmonton JCC: the Beth Israel Site and the Talmud Torah site.

There will be two separate scenarios presented for each site. Each site was the subject of a feasibility study conducted by two different architects, Stantec and Manasc-Isaac. They prepared two unique options for each site, one attached and one detached, and these are the options which will be presented, and which Federation is considering. We are looking for feedback from attendees as to which option is preferable from a community perspective.

There will be a unified presentation at the start of the meetings during which the options will be shown, and then people will split into small, facilitated groups to discuss and record feedback. The sessions will run approximately two hours.

Afterwards, the information gleaned from these sessions will be gathered into a report by our consultant, Chris Lavin of Solved, and presented to the CFU Committee for consideration. The committee will review this information, as well as all of the information it has collected over the last two years, and make a recommendation to the Board of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton as to which is the preferred site and configuration for a JCC on that site. If the Board votes to accept that recommendation, then the work of this committee will be done.

The Board will then strike a new, JCC Planning and Building Committee, tasked with coming up with detailed plans for building a new JCC on that site. That plan, if accepted by the Federation Board, will be presented at a meeting to which all Federation members will be invited, for approval. No money will be spent on actually building a new JCC on that site until Federation has obtained that approval. There is still much work to be done before we reach that point, including hiring architects and a builder, obtaining proper zoning, and negotiating with partners who are already on the site or who have interests in the site, obtaining permits, doing soil sampling, etc.

We appreciate your patience with this process, and thank you for helping us reach this point. We hope you register for the Town Hall Meetings by phoning or emailing Dani Uretsky at daniu@edjfed.org, 780-487-0585. We would like to thank all those who have been and will be involved in this process, both before the present committee, on the present committee and those who will participate in the future. This is a community effort, spearheaded by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and we appreciate your participation.