

PROJECT GENESIS BALLOT COMMENTS

FOR FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE SITE

Compiled by Melissa Strauss
2-12-09

Please note that bolded and underlined words indicate that the member emphasized that word by underlining it 2 or 2 times.

Safety Issues

Although I love the feel of the current Temple as well as the location, I honestly think that purely from the standpoint of safety, a new location needs to be found. Specifically, it is extremely dangerous at the Religious School pick up and drop off especially because there are many parents who, in spite of repeated requests not to double park, continue to do so. It's only a matter of time before something tragic happens. For this reason alone my vote is to find an alternative site

Parking

Parking – major issue, especially if downtown parking becomes paid parking as is presently being debated.

Insufficient parking is also a problem

Parking – major issues, especially if downtown parking becomes paid parking as is presently being debated.

Looking to Future Needs

Present addition lasted approximately 10 years. Congregation outgrew. Need to look 20 to 50 years from now. Architect's expansion plan maxes out Broadway property with no more expansion possible if membership increases.

Stay in Town Choice

In town or close to town

Stay as close to the city as possible

I would prefer to find an alternative location in town which could allow for potential future growth or a phased building project. Safe drop off and pick up of students.

I prefer to stay in town if possible

Alternate location should be within city of Saratoga Springs.

In town or close to town

I am swayed by the issue of accessibility (otherwise favor 509) Would prefer in-town site.

Would prefer to stay in town

I think we should stay in Saratoga Springs, just not in the same building.

It would be lovely to have a space in town with dedicated parking – but would be difficult.

In town space

Prefer in town

Near town with parking

In town

Prefer in town but out of town is okay

In town with parking if possible

In town

In town

The most feasible place would be town since we always been there. Only problem being in real estate that property on B'way would cost more. If we found property off B'way it would (undecipherable word) the most imp't aspect is parking and main sanctuary.

As for location, as close to town as feasible, considering budget limitations.

Only if the alternative site is in downtown Saratoga. Otherwise stay.

Out of Town Choice

Out of town

Logic says vacant land out of downtown Saratoga will be less expensive and satisfy all our needs and cost less.

Let's get the best our buck can buy and be less concerned with being on Broadway.

I prefer to move to any place as long as it is totally accessible in terms of parking, entry into the building and completely safe.

Out of town where real estate prices are lower.

Move ! Move now!

Let's go out of town a "little" We all need a big lot with room for parking!!

Out of downtown

Out of town

Out of town with parking lot. Safer for growing number of children

Accessibility Issues

I believe ease of access to the Temple is of importance, and will become more so as the average age of members increases.

General Comments

Even if construction of a new wing for 509 Broadway were to happen, it is still going to be claustrophobic for so many people to use the space – the Temple needs to move, with so many religious school parents and kids. Parking space is needed. Hopefully the new structure won't be too contemporary. Still need to keep the Rabbis "laid back" style.

Existing building does not meet current codes and historic presentation. Will be difficult with expansion.

It is incomprehensible that anyone would consider putting the children on the roof. No other Temple in upstate N.Y. has resorted to this action. Staying on Broadway" to preserve our identity" and to visit a bagel place shows how tunnel-visioned many in the congregation are. They are selfish and not putting the children, our future first.

While I would prefer a new building, I very much doubt that this is the time to proceed with these plans!

Although I'm very fond of the current Temple building, I think now is the time to abandon sentimental attachments, and make plans for the future that will meet future needs. We've been applying band-aids to the Temple for too long.

I feel the cost of repairing the current location is so close to the cost of a new facility that it makes sense to find a new home with parking and other modern amenities as well as space for the student to gather outdoors, family picnics etc. Why pour \$3-4 million into a building (509) with no parking?

Present addition lasted approximately 10 years. Congregation outgrew. Need to look 20 to 50 years from now. Architect's expansion plan maxes out Broadway property with no more expansion possible if membership increases.

The architecture of the front of the building can be replicated with a more modern interior. As a new member these are my feelings. I love the architecture of older bldg. This is important aspect to incorporate into a new one. Thanks "G" we have grown and will continue to grow when we have needed parking.

After seeing the current condition of t 509 Broadway, I no longer support renovation. Temple Sinai can have a presence in Saratoga Springs without being located on Broadway. It should stay in the 12866 zip code area so "Saratoga Springs" can remain in its identifying address.

I wish I could back staying at 509 Broadway. I initially felt that it was critical to Temple Sinai's recognition in the Saratoga community. I now feel that the Master Plan presented has too many unresolved issues about access and parking and that the 509 building doesn't meet our future needs. If the new building could be downtown that would be the best possible site.

Use a space within 5 miles of downtown Saratoga – to be more **cost effective** and enough space for parking and green space and build in a staged fashion with a modular type construction for classrooms/etc. That will allow for future expansion in 10, 20, 30, years.

Building Should Generate Income

In a new building, perhaps there could be income producing space such as a catering facility, which could reduce the need for assessment and keep costs down.

Financial Concerns

Do a cost effective way. Contact Shaare Tfillle for possibility of shared space.

There must be a commitment to secure large corporate donations/federal or state grants/private grant funding to offset the **HUGE** costs. Assessment to members must be fair.

Present building on Broadway – old, therefore more prone to extensive deterioration problems and will require escalating costs. Need to look for long-term for vital membership growth. As for short-term, economically speaking, not advisable to burden families with added costs – maintain existing structure only.

Green Concerns

Since we always are concerned about (indecipherable word) green a new building would be energy efficient.

PROJECT GENESIS

BALLOT COMMENTS

NO PREFERENCE FOR EITHER STAYING AT 509 OR MOVING TO ANOTHER SITE

Please note, when words are bolded and underlined, it reflects that the member emphasized that word by underlining it 2 or 3 times

One member wrote the following:

No preference –Broadway works 90+ % of the time – great location, more than enough parking, no mortgage, good community presence, no need for snow plowing except side walk – but – older buildings do require upkeep and maintenance – and yes 10-20 X /year there is not enough room in the sanctuary and the religious school is divided into 2 sessions – if we were to move - ? Weibel? Then we need real leadership and commitment in cash up front so that future generations are not burdened with mortgages.

PROJECT GENESIS BALLOT COMMENTS

COMMENTS FOR STAYING AT 509 BROADWAY

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2-12-09

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Work in Phases/Work with Shaare Tefille

Remodel in phases. Pursue working out a plan with Shaare Tefille as a more cost efficient move if indeed more people vote to move. The cost of \$4 million +/- with unknown donors and location is unrealistic, impractical.

Possible renovations can be done in phases.

Stay at 509 But Find New Space for School

Pursue other site for Sunday/Hebrew school that is safer for children. Shaare Tefille??

Stay on Broadway. Move religious school by renting space from another organization. Do not let one voice dictate policy.

Look to rent local space for needs, Sunday School at conservative synagogue or other location.

Move the pre-school room!

Keep 509 and find some new space for the school.

Move religious school by renting space from another organization. Do not let one voice dictate policy

General Comments to Stay

In favor of realistic plan for use of current building, not expansion. Building isn't crowded that often.

We need to remain present in our community !!

Do minimum renovation to bring building up to code

Stay, Absolutely!!

Stay. My vote is emphatic!

Keep Jewish presence downtown! (among other things!)

The congregation should live within its means at the present location

Many reasons to stay – presence on Broadway attraction to youth, unknown of new location

I think being downtown is very important and we don't need more new building!!

I am voting in favor of staying in the current building. The renovation however could be done for much less than projected.

The present building has character! Yes, it needs work but please don't leave it!

I support keeping the historic feel of the Temple in our historic town.

Use concepts in the Master Plan by John Waite

In-town property will appreciate more quickly than out of town. 509 has a unique "character" and is a symbol of tradition. Temple Sinai is at 509 Broadway – call it what you will, at another location it will not "be the same". The "hamishness" will be gone

This was not an easy decision eve after this whole exploratory process. I am leaning toward keeping a presence in downtown Saratoga but was disappointed that so far, the rear alley will not work out as an option. I wasn't confident that we could find an alternative site until I saw that the Weathervane is for sale which intrigues me.

Shared Space/Dedicated Space/Other Space Comment

Shared Space

Shared Space

Shared Space

Shared Space

Shared Space Concept

Shared Space Concept

Shared space makes sense to me

The shared space concept seems to me to be the most efficient

Favor shared space

Shared space

Prefer shared space concept

Dedicated

Dedicated Sanctuary Important

Dedicated sanctuary important!

Definitely prefer the dedicated space concept.

Dedicated space.

Some areas can be dedicated space and others can be shared spaces. 509 has some lovely design elements that should be kept as much as possible. A suggestion for the current sanctuary space is as a library & conference room for small groups.

I support having a designated space for worship as opposed to our current design which turns the worship space into classrooms.

Financial Concerns

The Board has not shown how we can afford to build or maintain a larger facility. (this member voted to stay)

Based on the fund raising results from the last addition, Temple should ensure most of the money is in hand prior to doing the work. 1/6th of the pledged money never materialized.

With the current financial and economic situation, sale of the current bldg would probably be difficult and probably bring considerably less money than anticipated.

Keep costs down. Members are hurting financially at this time.

I don't think this is an appropriate time to try to raise money for a building (voted to stay)

With the state of the economy, is this a still a good move? If dues have to go up, I cannot possible pay more than I am paying now and would have to move on.

Keep our overhead (e.g. needs for building fund) low

Any funds spent or raised must be timely (not in the middle of the recession/depression we are currently in)! **Entire** project and its architect/contractor **MUST** (the word must was underlined 3 times) be accountable to the congregation –as must be the Board – including open books and **full warranty** on the work. At the moment, I am **only** voting for doing those things that need to be done to maintain the safety and integrity of the current space!

It is unconscionable in these economic times to devote so much money to a building when so many others here in the US, Israel, and throughout the world are in need. Tikun Olam!

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Stay at 509, BUT....

Alternate site downtown, if we can or must move

Over the long term try to acquire property and land adjacent to 509 Broadway

Would also favor alternative site **downtown**

Don't necessarily need to use concepts in Master Plan by John Waite. Depends on definition of concepts :)

(Voted to stay at 509) This (staying at 509) was clearly answered in the Temple survey. Another example of the biased "process" that has created a lack in confidence in the board and the Temple. Both options are pie in the sky with no real sense of fiscal responsibility. Now is the time for new leaders who can unite our community around a shared vision of the congregation we care so deeply about.

I would have voted for finding an alternative site but have serious doubt about our ability to sell the Broadway building. Is it possible to put the building up for sale and see if anyone is interested in purchasing before we make such a serious decision?

Rent Homemade Theater for services on high holidays.

Parking Concerns

For decent parking, it would be necessary to go well out of town.

Is head-in parking in front of the building allowed to create a few handicapped spots?

Accessibility Concerns

Disabled access must be of the highest priority

One Member who Voted to Stay at 509 Wrote the Following Letter

I just want to enclose some thoughts about our future as Temple Sinai, Broadway or not, new building or old, we are a community and that is what truly matters. As a member of Temple Sinai, for many, many years, our children survived the basement classrooms, the overcrowded classrooms, the leaky

roof, the mold issues, the parking issues, and other less than perfect conditions. Perhaps it isn't/wasn't ideal, but we have managed. We have very fond memories of the too crowded sanctuary where both of our children were Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We have been through the process of one addition, many individuals and families gave so much time and energy and financial help to creating the addition we currently have. While I understand that we have grown and more space would be a great asset, I don't feel the support from our community that we had the first time around. I saw this with the informational meeting. I worry that the lack of interest in the meetings is what we will encounter as we go to raise funds for this new building.

With the current economic climate, I don't see that committing to a 4 million dollar project is the way to go. I think that other more financially prudent avenues should be explored. Renting classroom space from other facilities, Skidmore, Saratoga Springs School District, the local private schools, and etc make more sense. In the meantime, let's raise the funds needed before we commit to either staying on Broadway or going elsewhere.

It's also important to remember that those individuals who created our woefully inadequate space are still members of our community. We gave so very much and we are so very proud of what we have helped to create.

Misc Comments

Note: Every other Temple vote has always been one vote per family. Two per family in this case feels much like "stuffing" the ballot box.