

Housing Taskforce Report to the AGM
November 11, 2022

Over the past year the Housing Taskforce made steady progress towards implementing the renovation and expansion plans for our building.

The Taskforce held a well-attended Or Shalom community meeting in November 2021 to present the renovation and expansion plans and to receive feedback. The Taskforce and Erika Gerson, our architect, worked to incorporate many of the community's suggestions. In June 2022 Erika filed the application for a development permit with the city, a major milestone and the first step towards approval of the project. Copied below is a simplified graphic of the floor plans.

Taskforce members canvassed the Or Shalom neighbourhood and discussed the plans with neighbours. We found that the neighbours support the plans and our continued presence in the neighbourhood. At Purim, Taskforce members delivered hamentaschen to the people canvassed earlier.

City planners responded to the development permit application in July with a draft of comments and conditions. Erika, our heritage consultant Don Luxton, Russil Wvong, and I have met twice with the city planners to discuss their conditions and the Taskforce will bring a proposal to the Or Shalom board in January. In any case, once we have worked through the city planners' conditions, we are required to apply to the Board of Variance for the additional floor space needed to build out the classrooms and offices, expand the kitchen and install an elevator. Despite the progress made so far, getting approval from the Board of Variance is still uncertain.

Within the next month you will see the large sign in front of the bayit announcing the development permit application and asking for comments from the neighbours.

