

9/2/16

Community Building Meeting

Attendees: David Owens, Karen Arnold, Cathy Hicks, Mindy Johnson, Melissa Pappas, Julia Hupperts, Jesse Thomas,

Julia opened the meeting with a brief introduction about what community building is. Everyone introduced themselves. Jesse volunteered to be the chairperson. Melissa volunteered to take the minutes.

Jesse then talked about what the community building team has accomplished in the past such as the all hi-rise Festival of Nations trip and starting the Community Insider newsletter. Anyone can be on the community building team. (Community Builder used to be an elected officer position. It is no longer such a position.

Our responsibility as a team is bringing information back to our hi-rises, getting feedback from residents, and using that feedback to aid in planning events for all hi-rises. Meeting minutes should be posted on hi-rise bulletin boards.

Papers were passed out and everyone wrote down what interested them about community building.

Answers:

- Getting people to come out of their apartments and get involved in things.
- Get more diversity and diverse events at Valley.
- Give people the opportunity to learn about and get to know those from other cultures. It seems diversity has been overlooked as of late. Gossip is also a major problem everywhere. It is a mind game and is hurtful.
- Plan events that bring people together and make our hi-rises more of a community.

The next question is what you would like to see the committee accomplish this fiscal year.

Answers:

- Plan at least one all hi-rise event
- Keep the Community Insider going and growing
- Get more involvement from those from other cultures
- Have an event celebrating certain cultures
- Have an all hi-rise Black History event
- Have a multi-cultural fashion show
- Finding more grants for events
- An open house for the Presidents Council and it's committees
- An art show

Food at events was discussed. (Such as at a Black History event) There can be issues if people want to buy and cook food for events rather than having them catered. (There are possible

hygiene issues with home cooking since people probably don't follow food service best practices. There are also concerns about people keeping some of the food they purchased for the event.)

Having another Festival of Nations event was discussed. There were a number of issues when we did that several years ago. (Transportation was a big issue. Also whether or not PCAs should get in free. There were also accusations of reselling the tickets.)

Several people wanted an all hi-rise Black History event. Finding a place to hold it is the first thing to consider. One of the family site community center gyms could work. Wellstone Center is another option. Hi-rises would donate to help pay for that.

There could be speakers and a movie such as Rosewood, Glory, or the Tuskegee Airmen could be shown.

A multi-cultural fashion show was suggested. We would be looking for traditional clothing for whatever culture it is. This could work very well because there are so many cultures represented in our hi-rises. There also could be demonstrations of sewing or beading work. Mindy and Melissa could work on putting together a video for this.

A Presidents Council open house was suggested. This would introduce residents to the different committees and what they do. This could also encourage more people to sign up for committees or volunteer in other ways. More volunteers for things like the Peer team and Quickbooks peers are always needed.

A craft show was suggested. Residents who do any kind of art could submit work to be shown. A question was raised about whether this could involve the Ross grant. It's possible but not certain since it isn't employment related or educational. Hi-rises could budget some funds to help with this event.

Next meeting: October 7th