

11/4/16

Community Building Meeting

Attendees: Melissa Pappas, Sharon Baker, Leona Eishen, Julia Hupperts, Cathy Hicks, Eric Clark, Roxanne Sands, Karen Arnold, Marlys Zerahn, Jim Ramisch, Jesse Thomas

The meeting began with introductions and a review of the minutes from last month. A reminder was given that minutes are posted on the Presidents Council website within a day or two of the meeting,

Interest Survey:

The results of the interest survey were discussed. Possible events are a Black History event or a Multicultural Fashion Show. A backup event needs to be picked in case the two possibilities turn out not to be workable.

Having the event in a high-rise community room was suggested. It was said that it would simplify things and be easy for people to get to. Neill and Ravoux are sites that have large community rooms.

Looking at the survey results it seems that the majority of respondents would prefer to do things like watching movies in the community room. Arts and crafts was the second most picked option. People were also interested in things like nutrition classes, trips to baseball games and the Festival of Nations. The Insider newsletter was also a big interest. People were also interested in fundraisers. (Those might not be possible because of PHA restrictions on fundraisers involving food or clothing. Also issues with handling money.)

A cookbook fundraiser was attempted a number of years ago and ended up being scrapped for a variety of reasons. Having an organization do a fundraiser for us was suggested. (Local businesses are another option.)

Laws of Success:

The greatest sin is gossip. The greatest crippling is fear. The greatest mistake is giving up. The most satisfying experience is doing your duty first. The best action is keeping the mind clear and the judgment good. The greatest blessing is good health. The biggest fool is the person who lies to himself. The greatest gamble is substituting hope for facts. The most certain joy in life is change. The greatest joy is being needed. The cleverest man is the one who does what he thinks is right.

The most potent force is positive thinking. The greatest opportunity is the next one. The greatest victory is victory over self. The greatest handicap is egotism. The most expensive indulgence is hate. The most dangerous man is the liar. The most ridiculous trait is false pride. The greatest loss is the loss of self confidence. The greatest need is common sense. These words were written by Jesse Thomas. They are definitely food for thought.

Importance of Individuality:

Individuality is important because: You contribute great ideas to the world. You are not influenced by other people's fears. You lead the way for others. You live life with more joy. You inspire people like you to live their lives more passionately. These are all important things to keep in mind. The bottom line is to not let what other people think limit you. (Those who matter don't mind. Those who mind don't matter.)

A question was raised about how to deal with people who don't like you. The thing to do is to realize that it is about them and not about you. Everybody won't like you just like you probably don't like everyone else. Don't give other people your power. As Michelle Obama said "When they go low, you go high."

Also remember "What other people think about me is none of my business." Don't let haters live rent free in your mind.

Sometimes it can seem like negativity is more acceptable than positivity.

Engaging residents was discussed.

Be friendly and open. Smile, even a little. Greet new residents and invite them to attend council meetings.

Comments and concerns:

Changing the meeting time was mentioned. A later time would allow people to avoid paying peak bus fares. 10:00 was suggested.

It was decided to try 10:00 as a meeting time going forward.

How the "gossip game" works will be discussed at the next meeting.

Having a potluck was suggested.

Next meeting: December 2nd

