

Community Building meeting
4/7/17

Attendees: Marlys Zerahn, Karen Arnold, Melissa Pappas, Sherrilynn Villebraun, Jesse Thomas

What are your thoughts and feelings towards the Community Building team?

This was discussed first. The feeling was basically positive. The big issue is low attendance and low participation. (There used to be more people coming to the meetings. Now there are very few.) We also need to get more buy in from hi-rise Resident Councils. Not every site seems to support Community Building.

The language barrier is another issue. Some hi-rises have a lot of residents who don't speak English. Getting participation can be even harder when people don't understand what is going on and don't feel included.

Community Building is a very important team and we can still work together even with a small core group.

What is the difference between Community Building and Building Community?

Community building is getting people more involved in things. Being inclusive. Accepting all people and building diversity. Accepting all people regardless of race, creed, sexual preference, color. Bringing people together to learn about each other.

Celebrating our differences and realizing how we are the same as well.

Building community is bringing diverse groups of people together. Building understanding.

How can we develop a more positive Community Building team?

Get more people involved. Let residents see what we do and encourage them to join us.

Having an open house with information about all available programs and volunteer opportunities was suggested. Residents could come and learn about the different committees and pick up information. This could also be a good way to introduce people to the Presidents Council website and show them how to use it.

Bringing a different resident to the Community Building meeting was suggested. This could encourage more people to get involved. Work on getting more feedback. (Loosening Resident Council meeting time limits would help with this.)

Challenge Grant Update:

Each hi-rise will be allocated \$625 to be used for health and wellness activities. Surveys were given out at the last Presidents Council meeting. (Or the one before that.)

Hi-rises choose what they would like from a list of options. The Presidents Council will handle all the funds.

