

5/5/17

## Community Building Meeting

Attendees: Jesse Thomas, Melissa Pappas, Cathy Hicks, Julia Hupperts, Marlys Zerahn, Karen Arnold, Jeanine Wright, Roxanne Sands, Sharon Baker, Ruby Steward

This is the last meeting of the fiscal year. There is a lot to reflect on and think about.

### Member Feedback:

#### **Views and opinions on the results of accomplishments for this fiscal year:**

Karen Arnold said that everything she suggested at Exchange got turned down. There is a group of people that always gets their way. Cliques like this are common in all hi-rises. We need to work on not letting one small group try to control everything.

Cathy Hicks asked about what should be done about tattling. She said we did a lot of good planning.

Sharon and Karen said they got a lot of support from the group.

Jesse said what we chose was good. The big problems were budget and space for an event. Planning would be hard because it would involve networking with a large number of people. Also, the number of attendees is hard to plan for. An open house at CAO is still possible and we should think of that for the next fiscal year.

We haven't actually accomplished anything eventwise this year. It would have been nice to get more feedback from the hi-rises. We need to have a person from every hi-rise at these meetings.

Marlys was surprised there were so few people coming to these meetings now. We used to have a good number that came every month.

Roxanne asked what made all those people want to attend in the past.

Some people stopped coming because they didn't like the person who was chairing the meetings at the time. Having people sign up for community building at an open house was suggested. There could be free food or other giveaways to encourage people to attend.

Jesse said it was interesting that there is a lot of discussion about the Festival of Nations but not much about A Pathway to China.

Roxanne suggested having “A Festival of Hi-Rises”. This would introduce the community to our hi-rises and the diverse populations that live there. It could possibly be held at Rivercentre depending on the amount of participation we would get.

Individual hi-rise picnics were discussed. There are still issues with people cooking food in their apartments for events. There are a variety of concerns with that.

**What would you like to see take place differently in the new fiscal year and how would you suggest we go about making these changes:**

Sharon suggested community building going year round. There is a lot that goes on in the summer as well as the rest of the year. We could have meetings in the summer if we really wanted to. Having just one month off in the summer was also suggested. This would help “keep the engines fired” all year long.

Jesse said increasing resources and availability and getting more training for community building members would be helpful. Training people to communicate better with others would be a good thing. This could also help get more people involved. Hi-rises can get that type of training from the Dispute Resolution Center if they would like it.

Melissa suggested using technology to try and get younger residents involved. This could include things like social media. We need to build excitement and engagement on the level people are used to.

Cathy suggested having the orientor mention community building for new residents.

Jeanine suggested having separate groups for younger and older residents.

**What are some options (without food) for getting more residents involved with community building:**

Flyers are always good. There also can be an article for the Community Insider.

A video of some kind was suggested.

We also need to let people know that you don't have to be a board member to be on the community building team.

**Closing comments:**

This committee is kind of a networking committee for the hi-rise community builders. Julia said that community builders should have time to speak at each Resident Council meeting. Hi-rises need to know what the committee is working on. This committee should be a networking group with concrete suggestions and ideas that hi-rise representatives can take back to their hi-rise councils.

The community builder should be a part of the Resident Council. This should be talked about at the all officers training so everyone knows this and is on the same page about it.