

Theater of Change

Community Village
Newsletter
March 14, 2019

Proposed Agenda

Childcare rap – 3 minutes
Set Intention – 3
Agenda Review – 3
Fair Announcements – 5
Site Report – 3
Diversity discussion – 20 – Katie
50th Update & Discussion – 10
– Committee
Council Confirmation for
Drake, Russell and Tim – 15

One Fun Thing – 3 – Diane
Budget Proposal Discus-
sion – Arthur – 10
Added agenda items, if any
– 5
Non-Fair Announcements
– 5
Booth Breakdown – 30
Feedback (Strokes &
Pokes) – 3
OM – 2

Calendar

GENERAL MEETINGS 2019

Unitarian Universalist Church, 13th & Chambers
The second Thursday, January - June 2019, 7 - 9PM
Saturday June 22 noon Onsite Meeting
Please be quiet while entering the church as other meetings may
be scheduled in adjacent rooms. Orientation meeting at 6:30.
Council Meetings 3rd Thursday at Growers Market upstairs 7-9PM
LAST MEETING BEFORE ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE: April 11
WORK PARTYS + OTHER DATES TO BE SET
OREGON COUNTRY FAIR 12, 13, 14, JULY 2019

Council Candidates seeking confirmation tonight:

Russell Sudenga 541-870-5187 orientationcv@gmail.com
Drake Eubank: 541-579-9022 drake@efn.org
Tim Mueller 541-521-7208 tim@gwproj.com

March Meeting Notes excerpts

FACILITATORS: Ingrid (GreenEarth) and Omo
NOTE TAKER: Karen (GreenEarth)

SAM announced he has withdrawn from standing for Council because it has been “emotionally draining” for him. He said “it’s felt like a huge relief to know that this responsibility is no longer mine. I am handing off what I have been holding to all of you.” We [all Villagers] have “some serious work to do around council,” starting with the confirmation process. “I hope we can work together to come up with a better way of doing things.”

ARTHUR has forms and encouraged everyone who has received a wristband for at least 2 Fairs to realize they are an eligible voter and to vote in official Fair (OCF) elections.

PEACE & JUSTICE announced the annual conflict resolution skills retreat will be at Alice's on the Fair site March 2-3rd conducted by Center for Dispute Resolution.

ACTIVIST REPORT: Intentional Communities Booth

PRESENTERS: East Blair neighborhood (Eugene) community member (name), Lost Valley community member (name), Mother-ship (Portland) community member (name)

Adding to Consensus Rap by reporting on how each community uses variations of consensus

Handouts included: “Busting the Myth that Consensus with Unanimity is Good For Communities,” by Diana Leafe Christian, published in Communities magazine #155

LOST VALLEY COMMUNITY

Practices *Sociocracy* based on consent rather than consensus. Transparency in decision making is one of its three foundational pillars. Facilitation is shared.

Rounds & Circles are huge and there can be a hierarchy of circles like subcommittees "Rounds" refers to multiple rounds of discussion to give everyone a chance to speak. Checkins conducted at the start of a meeting to announcing intentions for that



meeting/moment and at the end of the meeting is Evaluations for End of meeting

Sociocracy challenges idea that Blocks are bad and instead takes the view that objections should be honored as "very valuable." "You want to know what exists for ppl and you want to work through it." So the facilitator will actually give the floor to objector. Similar to consensus processes, the goal is "to find something that works for everyone."

As far as group Leadership: you don't volunteer, you show up for an election, everyone writes down the name of their preferred leader/leaders for a particular community role on a piece of paper and the votes are counted. If you receive a majority of votes for a particular role, you are "generally expected to accept" that role in the community. He said it's "alternative form of voting it works really well for us" at Lost Valley.

MOTHERSHIP COMMUNITY in Portland

15 members, all of whom have "extremely well aligned intentions about how we want to live in community." As a result they can use informal processes for most decisions. Their community influenced by both consensus & sociocracy. Process of distinction between "Major" vs "Minor" decisions, meaning, "how to accomplish something," versus, "how to pay for something." Like LV, they also honor and really solicit the input from those most likely to object to something. Then "we just make a decision and do it."

That process means proposal makers have to "find out where the juice is" in the group and do legwork to advance their idea(s). Many times that is accomplished simply by "camp out in the common space" and checking in with everyone there. Not alot of legwork!

EAST BLAIR COMMUNITY (Missed report, couldn't hear speaker.)

ROLE OF COUNCIL (including Q & A)

KATIE (Council) said council is like the Fair equivalent of "Crew Coordinators" but really they are only quasi coordinators, so some people think "we're overstepping our role." But she said no one on council wants more to do!



QUESTION: What is the agreement with OCF about role of Council?

KATIE: Not clear...[OCF board] understand that we're the Village and we do consensus and we kind of do things our own separate way. We are not approved by the Fair board.

DRAKE said there are people with different viewpoint. Problem is Council doesn't have power, just responsibilities! If Council does have power, then the discretionary authority we want them to have goes along with how much accountability we want Council to have.

RUSSELL (Council/Village Orientation) "Our guidelines are rather simplistic & leave alot of room for interpretation" but that Council is required to uphold the Guidelines and to do things like the Village budget, meetings/agendas, CV Drum, newsletter, website, eligibility, passes, work parties. "There is a lot that the Council handles for the Village," he said and that everyone on Council works really hard "to make sure the Village is the best it can be." Council members are the people we go to when we need to know about what is happening or needs to happen! The Council has the role of looking at the big picture for the Village while Booth Coordinators have that role within each booth. "They were [seen as] the people that had the vision of the overall picture in mind for the Village" and to communicate that so every booth decision can take that into account.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES (coordinator?) said she prefers the leadership role and that "the accountability thing is important

for me." However the process needs to be done "responsibly and with compassion."

SAM First, just as in business or activism or whatever, no one is anxious to have their every deliberation scrutinized and criticized in public! "I bet no one would say, 'I'd like a Village meeting to be responsible for me and my work!'" But that is what it has been like for him on Council and now he is standing down from Council. "We need to come up with something... because what we have is broke." "We have a very horizontal structure... [and do] need to have checks & balances."

DIANE (Council) Reminded everyone that "the Village was founded to bring social activists together, not to tell people what to do," and that's why we have always worked together through consensus and the ideas of "Be Respectful, Have Fun, Get the Job Done."

RICK (Life Long Learning) said certain people on Council have taken on too much responsibility because the rest of us haven't taken on enough! Agrees with Diane, he's here to be an activist and there's no way he wants more rules or be told what to do. If we Villagers all got to know each other better, then we could be "be more integrated so there won't be any more fuckups." The way he would start is by saying, "My name is Rick, I wish I knew you more." SOMEONE asked how does the Village, as a whole, actually hold someone accountable?

TIM read from the Village minutes of 15 years ago (2004) which mirrored tonight's discussions regarding accountability, and he was on the Council. People were saying these same things back then! "Accountability" has become associated with the Eligibility process and he explained that "it wasn't that we were trying to tell people what to do" but he and others on Council have been trying to respond to needs and various things that always come up in the Village.

JON (1991) not Vote at his first meeting he volunteered council meeting space near where he lived & he was asked to be on Council his first year! at the time the agreement was 2 mtgs & 2 work parties & he had to go through the compiled list & follow up with ppl who didn't have enough mtgs & wp & tell them they wouldn't get a pass. At least as of 1991 , council did have a role of enforcing rules & hold accountable Council at least has a role, if we see someone is not meeting their obligations, we ...can..."Negotiate those terms, rather than dictate them"

FACILITATOR OMO likes idea of going back to booths & discussing the council's role

ARTHUR reiterated 2 final points. One that our guidelines specify that the Council facilitates the Village in the Fair, and that means they "take care of a lot of details!" Accountability is in the Eligibility Committee. "To me, that covers it all!" he said.

LYNN said what was missing from our discussion tonight convo is "the whole Hippie ethic of peace & love & kindness... and these haven't come up at all here!" In years past at Fair and in the Village, she said, "we used to see this Love & Kindness more...We need to do our Activism with Love & Kindness or it just doesn't mean anything!"

BIG JOHN (COUNCIL) said Arthur is "exactly correct" in his description of the Council's role and duties in the Village. We are a coordinating/facilitating Council with no punitive authority. The Booth Coordinators have that role! Coords vet the people in your groups. Our problem is if you have 203 people in Village you're going to have 203 different version of what the Council is supposed to be doing.