

Community Building Committee

June 2, 2016

Meeting notes/action items

Present: Diann, Bob, Hannah, Nasra

Goal of the committee: bridging the cultural divide by reaching out to the East African communities (Somali, Oromo, etc. – languages and countries, both towers and neighborhood).

Reviewed Planning Ideas with updates in blue:

What does the community want? Understand cultural differences better – last-minute drop-outs, etc. Consult with NCR engagement specialist Abdi Rasheed. **Ashley** - Community Connections Conference notes – hire a consultant? **No**

Identify community leaders Volunteer opportunities

- Find ways to include different age groups, men also?
- **Learn to say hi, overcome government distrust, connect with restaurants, businesses, religious leaders,**
- **Food and entertainment attracts people**

- SNG presence at East African events: Somali Independence Day (outside Seward) **Nasra research – July 18th? Table cost? – too expensive, other events?** Volunteer opportunities
- Multi-cultural Cooking classes at Seward Coop – **Tami contact Coop, Bob F cooking, Nasra signed up? Kerry advertise, others?** Volunteer opportunity
- Continue/re-start Community Conversations pot lucks – **Fall/Winter activity** Volunteer opportunity
- Better use of SNG Facebook presence. Possible special page for East African community? **Kerry, Laura, Trish, Peter social media presence, bulletin board, newsletter, web page Targeted posts cost money. Does anyone have experience with this? Should we pursue this? Targeted, inexpensive, good results thanks Kerry!**
- **Also, Marcela mentioned that KFAI has Somali and Oromo community radio shows on Sundays. There is also an Oromo public TV channel. We could maybe advertise larger community building events (like Open Streets or Kings Fair) on these mediums.** Volunteer opportunity

- Towers events inclusivity – some events can't be accommodated by towers due to construction, how can we help?
 - Possible ice cream social – at Mathews? **No** Combine with Sunday **No** movies in the park? Kerry check.
 - Towers night out table? - **Nasra** Volunteer opportunity got dates, signed us up, coordinate schedule with **Kerry & Profile**
 - **Towers monthly newsletter – Nasra – post inclusivity statement**
 - Invite neighborhood textile crafters to come to East some Thursday afternoon during or after Sewing Circle and have weavers come as well. **Kerry and Diann Story quilt/weaving? Sewing Circle 1-3pm, Crafter social 2 – 4pm** Volunteer opportunity Very successful! Again?
 - **Need to engage Oromo as well**

- **Leverage existing events** to draw a more diverse crowd – Open Streets, Garden Tour/Party, Winter Frolic, Walks, Bike rides, **5/27 Somali singer 8am at Cedar Cultural Center** Master schedule of events - Kerry Volunteer opportunities
- Language lessons? **Integrate with/leverage existing events - Tie in with Community Conversations? Table at open streets?** Volunteer opportunities
- Seward Montessori spring event **May 20 5:30 – 7:30** Kerry **Welcome to Seward banner at park**
- **Translations of Welcome packets – Kerry – done, distribute with Nasra**
- **Get more Board members from east African community – Nasra, Tariku, Diann**
- Improve/additional Franklin crossings? **Safety and connection CDC letter to Public Works** Good meeting, study in progress, Ashley going to CDC
- **Nice Ride/Spokes activities coordination – Tami work with Nasra to set up introductory 'station demo' rides/training sessions for 10 (sign up) in July?. Spare bikes? Ashley coordinate with Nasra**

- (Post-meeting) Follow up with Iftar celebration breaking Ramadan fast at Bethany for June 29 (probably at 7:30 or 8 pm). Volunteer opportunities
- Somali Mall tour September 14th Volunteer opportunities
- Somali Museum tour June 1 Volunteer opportunities – poor turnout, hold again in fall?
- Inclusivity statement in Profile, post on towers bulletin boards? **Translate?**
- Gather towers residents and walk to weekly Seward walks starting point. A grant may be available from Allina for walking groups (who said this???) Volunteer opportunities
- Advantage Services Coordinators in towers may collaborate, Ashley and Nasra to follow up
- Nasra and Diann meeting at Kajoon

Reviewed Schedule something each month with updates in blue:

- **April/May** –
 - multi-cultural tour of Somali museum – **May 18th, 5:45 there**, bus travel?, **carpool from SNG at 5:30** Lake St & 16th, \$9 charge. **Sheldon could lead a bike ride Possible dinner at Shabelle (Oromo)?** Nasra work with Kerry. Volunteer opportunity
- **June** – **Ramadan Iftar breaking of fast June 29 at Bethany?** Kerry confirm, multi-faith/multi-cultural Volunteer opportunities
- **July** Neighborhood walks starting – start one at East/West tower? **Bob** could host River Walk Volunteer opportunity
 - **July 14 garden walk, party**
- **August** - Towers Night Out Volunteer opportunity
 - Aug 21 – Franklin Open Streets. Neighborhood inclusivity/solidarity march/parade/**bike rodeo/music/art/talent show?** Dancing. Use of kick off ceremony in Triangle Park to showcase cultural pride? **Tami work with bike coalition; Slow bike race** Volunteer opportunities
- **September/October**
 - **Somali Mall tour bus travel Sept 14, Volunteer opportunity**
 - **Community Conversations Potluck #1? need to schedule Towers rooms are not available; could use Mathews park, Bethany Lutheran basement or do progressive meals? Note prayers at sunset Volunteer opportunity**
- **November- December** –
 - **SNG annual meeting/potluck, Volunteer opportunity**
- **January**
 - **Community Conversations Potluck #2? need to schedule Volunteer opportunity**

Advertise in Profile, on Website

To remember: Ramadan June 6 – July 7, prayer time at 3:30 pm and sunset (varies)

Next meeting: **July 7?, 5:30 p.m.** at Coop - note Ramadan conflict