Minutes of the Neighborhood Captain Forum – March 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Helen Koonz Executive Committee Member. Eighteen (18) Neighborhood Captains and/or Assistants to the Captains were in attendance. The Executive Committee in attendance (Helen Koonz, Scott Svihula, and Lorie Pearce) introduced themselves.

1. A motion to accept February 08, 2024, NCP minutes was made by Susan Godlewski and seconded by Donna Toth. All in attendance agreed, and the minutes were accepted.
2. Reflections reminder
    a. A reminder about the articles for reflections from Victoria West, Vizcaya North, and Mira Vista must be submitted by 03.27.2024. Submissions are now to be sent to the captain's email only.
    b. New rules regarding submission formats and picture quality were discussed. (See Guide)
    c. There are a few open spots for later in the year. If interested, email the captain's email.
    d. All submissions must be sent to captainprogram.solivita@gmail.com ONLY. We are no longer to submit directly to Reflections. Scott Svihula and the EC will submit three (3) articles per month on behalf of the NCP.
3. Fundraising/Supporting Ideas for 2024
    a. Discussion on brainstorming fundraising ideas that directly benefit the Solivita community, with a focus on supporting local needs such as Meals on Wheels. The goal is to keep contributions within Solivita rather than supporting external causes.
    b. There may be a need for further research and possibly forming a committee to explore and partner with local charitable organizations within Solivita.
    c. The discussion revolves around the concept of gathering donations through community events, similar to past initiatives like Toys for Tots and Monster Food Drive. The idea is to place drop boxes at functions for people to contribute, which will then be combined into a mass donation.
    d. The meeting discusses potential collaboration with SolAbility, an organization that supports individuals with special needs, Alzheimer's, and other handicaps. The aim is to support their events.
    e. Various community support activities were discussed, including providing meals, mobility scooters, and assistance with daily tasks for those in need within the community.
    f. The need for transportation assistance for medical appointments and other needs was discussed, including the challenges of liability and insurance for volunteers.
    g. The idea of partnering with cleaning services to provide house cleaning for those unable to afford it was proposed, highlighting the importance of safety and the potential for an annual deep clean fundraiser.
    h. Look into supporting current Solivita Clubs that support Solivita residents:
        i. Solivita Meals on Wheels
        ii. Solivita Friends Help Those In Need
        iii. SolAbility

4. Captains shared details about events that have worked well in their neighborhoods.
    a. A wine group event organized by Bob Monica was discussed, highlighting its success and sponsorship by a financial company. The event included a presentation on financial planning, wine tasting, and food pairing, and it was FREE.
    b. A potluck dinner with a Hawaiian theme was mentioned, and the success of the event and the incorporation of word games to engage attendees were mentioned.
    c. An upcoming event featuring a wildlife speaker discussing local fauna was announced, aiming to educate and engage the community.
    d. One captain recounts past community events like bocce ball, flamingo mingle, and a planned chili cook-off, highlighting the importance of community engagement and participation
    e. Discussion on organizing outdoor games for events, including bucket golf and bocce ball, emphasizing the inclusivity and fun of these activities
        i. Bucket golf introduction - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHTcE7Zzbys
    f. A conversation about the use of a Jenga game at events, clarifying the size of the game pieces and discussing its popularity among attendees.
    g. One community has a tradition of celebrating Groundhog's Day by gathering around the community mailboxes in the morning. People come together at 9 o'clock, bringing morning food items to share.
    h. Captains shared creative event ideas like holiday walks, poker runs, and themed parties, along with execution strategies.
    i. Work with the Chef at Mosaics to do a cooking event.
    j. An event was shared that celebrated everyone's birthday all at once with 12 themed cakes and decorations.
        i. Other events that have been successful include Themed potlucks, Dessert Parties, Block Parties, Murder Mystery Parties, Luncheons, Scavenger Hunt
        ii. Cook Offs (chili, dessert, soup, BBQ, etc.), Pool Party
5. Other Items
    a. Discussion was had around money and accountability. It was mentioned that a Treasurer SOP is being worked on.
    b. It is important to confirm your room reservation with Lifestyles. Also, confirm the room set up a couple of days before your event.
    c. If having a block party, it is important you contact security ahead of time and confirm a couple days before the event so they can block the street off.
    d. A question about Bingo being ready to go. We are waiting to meet with the Sheriff to address questions and sign off on the program
    e. A discussion was had about captains updating the email contacts and community directory.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 4:11pm by Judy Walls and seconded by Susan Godlewski.