

DISCOVERY TOWN HALL MEETING 13 November 2004

Meeting was held at Golden Gate Lutheran Church and started at 3:23pm.

It was requested to have Labor Day Survey results posted onto discovery web site.

There were 24 people in attendance. Mark Rumpler facilitated meeting and described procedures for town hall meeting and briefed history of Discovery to all.

The meeting was broken into 5 smaller groups and tasked with coming up with ideas to help Discovery and suggestions for improvement.

Group 1(Frank, Matt, Noel, Mick)

Camp Gualala is over used site for retreats. Bad site, too rustic.

What about younger generation retention? They come to one retreat and then do not return.

Add Spirituality back into retreats.

Need to improve on advertising and promotion. BAR ads, banner ads on web.

Change the name? Who are we? How do we explain what we do?

Consider shorter retreats on non-holiday weekends

 New Years Weekend

 Middle of January or August

 2 day weekends, Spa weekends

Have guest headliners appear at retreats

Increase marketing to singles

Sites closer to SF

More bowling

Dance Night

Dinner Nights

Café Chats

Group 2(Jorge, Roy, Mike, Ed, Gary Steve)

Events: Add smaller 1 or 2 day retreats or workshops and increase regularly scheduled social events

Retreats: Costs are too high

Communication: Improve email lists, post card mailings, generally increase communication, notice of meetings, no consensus over communication through 1 person or not

Fundraising: add more fundraisers

Group 3(Douglas, Peter, Mark, Charlie, Michael)

Attendance:

Poor attendance can be attributed to Marketing, Competition, the Economy

Perhaps have smaller retreats instead of larger

Other than retreats, what can we do as a community?

Need new retreat sites.

Communication:

Generally mixed and weak

Where is leadership?

People told different things

Where do the policies come from? Some are clear, others unclear.

Who is accountable?

Who do we want to be accountable?

Mission of Discovery needs to be clear & published to community

Add a Group List Serve

Increase awareness to members

Minutes, finances, elections should be public

Organizational:

Running out of program ideas

How involved are board members in planning events?

Separation of board & community

Group 4 (Robert, Andrew, Jerry, Ricardo)

Bi-Laws need to be reviewed & re-written:

Documentation of board directives

Formalize communication/governing policies

Board member responsibilities

Publish board meeting minutes to community; archive board minutes

Publish board member responsibilities

Visibility:

Need a hook to attract members

Cross promotion with other groups – cultural, PFLAG

Word of mouth, hand in hand with relationships

Retreats:

Large group activities should be fun and light hearted

Small group activities should be more serious

Have retreats on NON-holiday weekends

More advance planning, promotion

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Group 5: (Dan, Patrick, Rafael, Ted)

Retreats: mix of sites, have one at rustic site then midrange and high end

High end could explore a cruise, Lake Tahoe, Europe

Sponsor (organize) a Health Fair

Change “retreat” to social weekend. Offer package price for booking multiple retreats

Community comments-

Charlie Fernandez- mentioned collecting annual dues from members

Mike Hoffman- Bi-law review and update bi-laws. Volunteered to review & update

Charlie Fernandez- Must revise bi-laws. Why can't board elections be made by entire community?

Patrick Baressi- Mentioned 501C3 for tax exempt status, He knows who drafted up current bi-laws.

Gary- Only 23 people showed up for town meeting out of community of 350.

Jerry Maynard- There are 23 ways to interpret Bi-laws & discovery operations

Andrew Diamond- Questions board about Bi-laws and adherence to them. Also questions recent board elections from past few months.

Mark Rumpler- Explained how discovery has operated with Bi-laws

Douglas Mitchell- Uncomfortable with Discovery over past year. Poor communication from board members to community. Very disappointed with current board

Charlie Fernandez- Crisis of Community. Look at leadership capability & add it into workshop @ retreats

Mike- Suggested Bi-Laws be re-written & report back to community

Ted- A small group of members to all the work. What is membership requirement of discovery?

Michael McDonald- Different gay community now opposed to 5 yrs ago. Is Discovery still relevant and how do we update ourselves?

Noel Baggett- Discovery has help him in past and feels has graduated out of it.

Peter Galli- Who are the community members to vote for members?

Gary- Communication breakdown between board and community

Roy Schachter- No feedback from community for his efforts

Plan of Action

Douglass- Request monthly board minutes be posted to discovery site

Rafael- Post available board positions onto discovery site

Douglass- Post current board member roster to discovery site

Mick- Find & post all member list to discovery site

Roy- Suggest using Evites & open e-mail to list serve of all members for better communication between discovery community

Jerry- Post message board

Michael McDonald- Is still web based communicator

Bi-laws- Charlie & Mike Hoffman will work on reviewing them

Douglass- Mission statement needs to be created & published. He will work on this

Frank B.- Glad to have every one voicing opinions

Increase Communication:

Monthly E-Newsletter

Monthly board minutes

Post available volunteer positions

Post board contact info

Evite is good

Email list-serve (Roy could coordinate)

E-message board

Board communicate decisions as they happen

By Law Committee – Mike, Charlie, Jorge G.
Mission Statement – Douglas M.

Next town hall meeting will be in January 2005. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm