Greek Life Commons planning event – Saturday, November 6, 2010

Responses from Working Session 1: Community Development

What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?

The comments listed below were generated by the participants in attendance during Greek Life Commons planning event held on Saturday, November 6th, 2010.

The responses were taken directly from the participants. No responses were omitted and no editing occurred (other than a spell check).

Participants at the event were responding to the following discussion question. “What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?”

1. Work with local philanthropy organizations
2. (phi mud) other chapters have a neighborhood dinner, but it’s hard for a good infrastructure
3. (Agd) gives cookies to neighbors to try and get neighbors involved with their philanthropy events
4. (AGD) sisterhood is huge to us
5. Do just random things together, sports helps out
6. (AXP) plays games with the pledges to get them to know the brothers better and to have cool events
7. (phi mud) watched a movie together just because
8. (AGD) we have a certain amount of sisterhood events we need to do
9. (phi mud) currently planning a white water rafting event
10. (theta chi) alumni reward us for doing well in rush, give us money to do an awesome event together
11. Give out magnets to neighbors
   a. Contact information for PR chair/President
12. Send letters to neighbors each year
13. Invite neighbors to events during events
   a. Recruitment
14. Give cookies to neighbors
15. Chapter advisors talk with neighbors
16. Proactively cleaning streets per neighbor complaint
17. Help with community cleanup
   a. Leaves/snow cleanup
18. Get brothers involved in non-greek organizations
   a. Speak positively towards Greek life
      i. Lead by example
19. Greeks volunteer at campus events – Winter Carnival, Fanfest
What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?

20. Have Greeks show a positive image on campus/at events
   a. Wearing letters Thursday
   b. Wear Greek clothing to show Greek presence

21. Campus Involvement Chair within chapter
   a. Bridges chapter with RPI events

22. Chapter to Chapter Interaction
   a. Sending cards/flowers to sororities
   b. Sending cookies/baked goods to fraternities

23. Display cards within the chapter house to show these good relationships

24. Sending thank you cards to administration
   a. Small things go a long way

25. Dinners for administration/offices on campus
   a. Admissions, Public Safety, ResLife

26. Professor/Staff events and socials
   a. BBQs, lunches

27. Phi Kappa Phi: Haunted house worked with Sorority every year

28. AEPi: co-sponsoring of social events, more mixers between Greek housing -> not formal or scheduled

29. PanHel: houses working together well, and PanHel is working to try to make bylaws and rules less scary to Greek community of being strict

30. Developing Sisterhood/Brotherhood.
   a. Chairperson that plans cool, non-mandatory events for everyone to just hang out.
   b. Zoned events
      i. Sunset Terrace Football game
      ii. Sunset vs. Pawling events.

31. Pi Kappa Phi: 2 active members on IFC → none next year- a lot get done, but a lot doesn’t

32. IFC: long meetings – need improvement

33. Greek Dean will help with the helping to solve some of the lack of power in certain situations

34. Feels like there is a push to restrict Greek life whether or not they are proud of it, but some help and a push back from alumni and Greek dean will help to keep us on tract

35. Need to improve things we should have been doing in the past

36. No information given to alumni or others from RPI to rebuild trust
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37. Neighbor relations?
38. John: we stay out of their business they stay out of ours
39. Eddie: I saw this differently how do we get more community in our house
40. John: A brotherhood chair, organizes events to enrich more brotherhood.
41. James play manhunt more fun familiar with brothers more friendship
42. Mark: interactions within pledge classes and spread it out.
43. John: played Pictionary to try to have fun split up the brothers. Less pledge class more brotherhood events.
44. Rake leave for neighbors houses and shoveled the neighbors walkways
45. Mark: send letter invite them to the house for dinner and helped a lot with relations
46. Alumni: keep base with them ones that you always see around, newsletters and alumni news letter events. Email news letter.
47. Eddie: We found that when we switched online we got less money when we sent a physical letter more donations came with a check send both get more money the ways that you can contribute these are the ways that we can contribute

48. Internal:
   a. Have money set aside for activities with just members.
   b. Have a “brotherhood chair” who has the responsibility of planning things.
   c. Working to get alumni to come back.
   d. Get alumni active in house activities.
   e. Newsletter for alumni.
   f. Posting (emailing out) minutes from house meetings.
   g. Have a wiki / online database system to pass on procedural information.

49. External:
   a. Having respect for neighbors: Letting neighbors know about parties.
   b. Making sure to have a direct line to contact actives.
   c. Keeping house clean to keep good impressions up.
   d. Hasty cleanup after parties.
   e. Having work parties dedicated to weekly help with neighbors.

50. Getting better relationships with neighbors
51. Devoted group of students to think about this
What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?

52. SAE’s community dinner
53. Neighborhood BBQ
54. Using the house as space for other venues
55. Chi Phi Live
56. Having Events with other houses
57. Community newsletter
58. Open houses for the community
59. Adopt a team
60. Attend City meetings
   a. To show we are separate from RPI
   b. Adopt a Police Officer
      i. As a liaison with the chapter
      ii. Link between the chapter and the City
      iii. Community policing
61. Involvement in Troy with service
62. Club and team involvement with involvement. National accreditation with this. Meeting other people and seeing Greeks in a different light and involved/ passionate about something other than Greek Life.
63. Showing parents the community: Accepted students day, Move in, student orientation.
64. Residence Life is now helping and embracing Greeks. The goals and criteria that Dean Hunt wants to fill serves as a comfort to the community as a whole
65. Need to promote the pride of Greek Life at RPI- larger Greek Weekend/Greek Week. Participation within GM Week
66. Working with School 14 in Troy, helping out at marathon in Albany
67. Rake a thon raking neighbors leaves, Unity house pumpkin painting, dress up as Santa at school
68. Youth build habitat for humanity geared for high schoolers
69. Relay for life
70. Park cleanup with lots of Greeks in Troy area
71. Victorian Stroll
72. Philanthropy
   a. Not as good at marketing about our philanthropy
   b. But we have excellent philanthropy program

Responses were collected and compiled by the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development

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73. Working with/for Troy (something to improve?)
   a. Volunteer at the YMCA
   b. Animal Shelter
   c. Food Bank
   d. Communiversity

74. Community relations position in house
   a. Delts has one...

75. Relay for life is huge (more local), chapters work together
   a. Greeks should come together to help out locally, not just our individual national philanthropy organizations

76. Continue to make goals/get better

77. PanHel/IFC

78. Community Events
   a. Invite Local people to events
      i. Ski Lodge Haunted House
      ii. Invite local figures to dinner?
      iii. Pi Phi PhallPhest

79. Mixers between the chapters across campus.

80. Brotherhood/Sisterhood chair; plan events for the members of the chapter. I.e.: paintball, apple picking, retreats.

81. Governance retreat to focus on the internal issues of the chapter.

82. Mixers between alumni of the chapter and the current members to show the current members that the alumni are there to help.

83. Doing service events downtown and wearing letters.

84. Going to and contributing to Troy Night Out.

85. BBQ’s with Res Life

86. Rake leaves for neighbors

87. Clean up Prospect Park

88. Community Enrichment Dinner

89. Keeping our neighbors happy

90. School is also part of the community

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What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?

91. Food bank involvement
92. Invite professors to events
93. Pan Hel has a professor mixer in the fall
94. War memorial clean up
95. Tutoring students at Troy High/Middle Schools
96. Supporting Farmer’s Market
97. Potential Future relationship with nearby YMCA helping with teen nights
98. Most houses are in residential areas—being good neighbors, establishing a good line of communication
99. Let neighbors know that parties or other big events are going on so that they are aware of the events
100. Community enrichment dinner in the fall, for neighbors, faculty, rushees and other administrators from the school, way to mingle with everyone and make some valuable networking things
101. Putting a human element on Greek life
102. Hazardous waste day for people in troy-brought garbage trucks and a trailer, used troy high school and sort out the trash, pay small fee for disposal, resell parts
103. Haunted houses involving the community
104. Ascetics, making the house look respectable for the neighbors, making sure that the yard is clean for the neighbors, more likely to give you a hard time if you do those wrong.
105. Faculty dinner at the chapter house with the upper administration at RPI to talk, very carefully planned, gave tons of advanced notice
106. Meeting neighbors
107. Good support system within RPI’s Greek Community
108. Participation in each other’s philanthropic events
109. Meeting neighbors
110. Good support system within RPI’s Greek Community
111. Participation in each other’s philanthropic events
112. Phi Sigma Kappa
   a. Funding Micro-Grant program: people who live/work in the neighborhood or around the house can apply for micro-grant and that money has to be used for bettering the neighborhood ($1000); i.e. To paint house, for new business sign; can be used for after school program or drug prevention program
113. Do we have study sessions/tutoring with local students?
   a. SAE asks for brothers to volunteer in after school programs
What is currently working well in your chapter related to community development?

114. SAE
   a. Brotherhood chair holds events like scavenger hunts for brothers (i.e. look at composites for look-a-likes or “manversations”- brotherhood wide conversation on topics)

115. Phi Sigma Kappa
   a. Brotherhood events where attendance mandatory; may watch elections on TV or do some other activity

116. Participate in community service/philanthropy events of other houses

117. Google calendar of all IFC and PanHel events

118. Troy Clean-Up

119. Community Work Party – help out neighbors
   a. Raking leaves
   b. Help with wood piles, etc.

120. Baking for neighbors

121. Warn neighbors before having large parties