

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes February 19, 2025

Attendees: Melarie Wheat, Tara Bradshaw, Erin Seibel, Shivam Shah, Linda Peterson, Brynn Heather Johnson, Kellie Challburg, Silvia Araoz, Melany Moras, Jenny Hasse, Falguni Dharodiya, Amitava Ray

Falguni shared a thought regarding gratitude. The importance of community service, the importance of gratitude, and ways to stay positive. She also shared personal experiences and provided insights on gratitude practices, suggesting ways to incorporate it into daily life. She encouraged the team to express gratitude and suggested small ways to practice it daily, such as keeping a gratitude journal. The team was tasked with sending a text or email to someone they were grateful for.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes:

1st: Melarie Wheat

2nd: Tara Bradshaw

DPMS PTSA Student Club Donation Drive

- Melarie to provide specific details on the PTSA Student Club donation drive needs and dates.
- All committee members to promote the PTSA Student Club donation drive once the details are finalized.
- Linda and Kellie discussed the possibility of having a donation bin at City Hall for employee contributions to the PTA Student Club drive.

Revamping the MLK Day Poster Contest for Youth:

- Linda Peterson discussed the declining participation in the annual poster contest and proposed shifting to a more dynamic medium, like TikTok, to engage younger generations.
- The new format would involve weekly questions tied to Black History Month, with prizes for the first correct answers.
- Kellie suggested opening the contest to a wider audience, including older children and the broader community. The team agreed to try this new format next year.

Kindness Initiative and Community Impact:

- The team shared their experiences with a recent kindness initiative, which involved visiting five different locations and engaging with people.
- They discussed expanding the initiative, possibly quarterly, and including visits to senior centers or assisted living facilities.
- The committee agreed to continue exploring ways to spread positivity and impact the community.

Legislative Update:

- Melarie provided a legislative update, including a bill for creating a Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail, funding for English language learners, and a proposed 2% fee on money transfers without valid ID.
- Discussions around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) have been minimal in the legislature recently.

Upcoming Volunteer Events and Opportunities:

- Volunteer Breakfast on March 15th to honor Melarie Wheat as Volunteer of the Year.
- Cinco de Mayo event at Draper City Park on May 5th, with Kellie organizing the entertainment.
- The committee agreed to handle the pie contest at Draper Days and discussed future events like a potential community pantry for food sharing.
- The committee also discussed plans for a ribbon-cutting event in March and a "Welcome to Draper" sign for future events.

This meeting focused on ongoing community-building efforts, gratitude practices, and upcoming volunteer opportunities to foster a more engaged and positive community in Draper.

Motion to Adjourn:

1st: Erin Seibel

2nd: Silvia Araoz