

Night Out at Arrowhead Gardens, August 2, 2022

Submitted August 16, 2022 by Sue Thatcher, Committee Chair

1. OVERVIEW:

Goal of the event was to have residents get to know each other and participate in the national event which is designed for neighbors to meet each other as well as local law enforcement. In order to facilitate that the committee designed the following:

As residents arrived, they were greeted at a card table set up just outside the office and had a name tag prepared. The tags were the “Hello my Name Is” variety. I had handwritten “I love to:” towards the bottom and residents were asked their name and what do you love to do? The idea was that residents would see others with the same interest and begin a conversation about that.

They were also given a 1/6th piece of paper with 4 squares and a place for their name and apartment number. They were told that as they stopped at each station the paper would be stamped and when it was full they would trade it in for their meal ticket. The paper was color coded by building, at 7:30PM there was a drawing from each building, the one with the most residents attending was for a \$100.00 Fred Meyer gift card, second place building a \$50.00 card and 3rd place a \$25.00 card.

The next station was outside the women's restroom, where they were given another “my name is:” sticker with a name already on it. Each name was one half of a famous pair—peanut butter and jelly, Romeo

Night Out at Arrowhead Gardens, August 2, 2022

and Juliet, etc. They were told to find their “match” and present themselves to the AGRC president and Arrowhead Gardens property manager located in the Community room, to receive a prize. The prizes were purchased at the Dollar Tree and put into gift bags, also from the Dollar Tree. The meal tickets were also to be issued there.

Next, they proceeded into the “living room” area, where tables were staffed and set up with information on: Volunteering, AGRC and Clubs and Committees. Each table had a sign over it to label it. As they proceeded, they were given a stamp on their card. They were then directed into the Craft Room where there was a presentation on the Gardens Gazette for their 4th stamp.

Then they went into the Community room for socialization until the food trucks opened at 6PM. Food was paid for by SHAG, prizes and decorations by AGRC with a \$500.00 budget. (About \$300.00 was actually spent, to purchase 100 gifts at Dollar Tree, Fred Meyer gift cards and miscellaneous supplies.

Police from our precinct were invited and two officers came, as well as another who is the son of a resident.

At 7:30 PM Norm Bolden hosted music on the deck until 9PM.

2. WHAT DIDN'T WORK:

The lines all tended to get backed up as name and game tags were prepared and explained and the information tables were too close together. Some people wanted to spend time hearing about the various subjects and some just wanted to get their stamp and move on. *A possible solution would be to have each building come at a different time, perhaps 30 minutes apart? Have the information tables scattered*

Night Out at Arrowhead Gardens, August 2, 2022

around the community room, perhaps they still need the card stamped, but do not have to wait in line for each table.

The food trucks were a problem in spite of lots of effort to arrange. The hot dog truck was the only food scheduled and he was a last-minute cancellation. Full Tilt ice cream was there as planned. A third food truck was hoped for but never found. The hot dogs were purchased from Costco at the last minute. *A possible solution would be to give the food trucks an advance deposit? Arrange for food to be catered and served in the community room, although I know some of the residents appreciate the variety that food trucks offer.*

There was last minute confusion about how the prizes were given out, so that people were given a prize with their meal tickets, so when people found their match and went to get their prizes, they were told that the prize was the chance to get acquainted. Made some people unhappy.

Better training and practice for the people staffing all the tables about how to direct folks to the next area and give out prizes. Better signage into the craft room and out that door to the patio.

3. WHAT DID WORK:

There were 3 on the original committee from the Wellness Committee, who met weekly for 5 weeks prior to the event. There was a brief meeting with all the volunteers the day before the event to be sure everyone knew their station and role. There were several others who joined the planning committee as they were able. All ideas were discussed and evaluated, some adopted and others rejected.

Night Out at Arrowhead Gardens, August 2, 2022

Invitations were prepared and put in doors and elevators the week before the event. The drawing for most attendees from each building was explained and the concept of meeting your neighbors as well. About 100 residents came and seemed to enjoy themselves. There was positive feedback the next day.

Arrowhead staff did participate although the role of each person was not clear, but they were present.

4. FINAL THOUGHTS:

While it seemed to be a fairly successful event, I think that in the future it would be reasonable to consider not having the information tables. I think people were annoyed at having to have their card filled in order to get the meal voucher. Since the only real success in getting people to sign up was for the Gazette, perhaps that could still be presented, but not the rest. Maybe just have information out on a table to be available if a resident wants it. And/or having board members wear something to identify them as a person to ask about Arrowhead information.