

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Public Meeting

December 13, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

INTRODUCTION

We wished everyone a happy winter holiday season and explained that we had no formal agenda for the meeting. We wanted it to be a relaxed, study-break type of experience. We had tasty sandwiches and fruit and lots of tempting desserts brought by VRA members. We discussed a few items of interest to Village residents.

HOLIDAY PARTY REVIEW

RA Rasha Gish asked us what we liked about the Village Holiday Party this year. Comments were as follows:

- The food was great! The desserts were gone really quickly, even though the RAs thought they had purchased a lot of it.
- The entertainment was fun, but it was kind of hard to hear over the noise in the gym.
- It might have been nice to have more performances.
- The children had a great time making cards for family members. There will be a lot of happy grandparents receiving homemade holiday greeting cards this year.
- The poster with information about each holiday was very well received. It was interesting to learn about all the different winter holidays there are in various religions. It was a great multi-cultural learning experience for kids.

SUGGESTED EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE

The VRA is always looking for neat programs to fund around the Village. With that in mind, we discussed some community-building events that we thought would be great to have here. After the winter break we will see what kind of interest there is in these types of groups:

- A Village Choir would be really neat to have. We would need to find someone to organize it and direct it, but there would probably be some good interest in the Village, especially if babysitting was provided. The choir could sing all sorts of songs from various cultures, and perhaps have concerts every so often.
- A dance group where adults could regularly meet and practice a particular style of dance (such as swing) and get semi-professional instruction would be lots of fun. We would need to find someone to organize it and hopefully someone in the Village who would even teach it for free.

ETC.

There were a few other random items that we discussed:

- Why haven't the potholes on Monroe been fixed? Cars are swerving to avoid them and they are getting really large and deep. They might even be potentially dangerous if someone tripped and fell when crossing the street. The Village Office has already requested they be fixed, but the parties responsible for doing the work have not followed up yet. In order to put pressure on them, we can send emails to Village Manager Tavie Tipton at tippy@berkeley.edu. She will forward them to those who should be doing the work.
- Why was there not the usual "For Finals' Sake" babysitting event? Because there was not enough staff manpower at the Family Resource Center to make it happen this year. They are hoping to do it next semester.
- The location of the taiko drumming puts it right next to the computer center and study center, making it hard for people to study during that period. It was a great event, but if possible it might be nice to put it farther from the study center next time.

Prepared by:
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