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INDIVIDUAL HOUSE BROCHURES

Meeting Summary- Sunday June 21st 7:00-8:45

The committee met for its' second time and had another productive meeting. In attendance were David, Ariel, Kirsten, Nancy, and Arun.

This week we had reports from the membership coordinators about how the meeting at their houses went. Overall people were not jumping up and down about how excited they were. Most people did not have anything to sink their teeth into and are probably waiting until we put together a mock-up of the brochure. We did get some good comments though and below is a list of some of the things said.

Pearl

Not that talkative

They want picture of mural in the pool room

They want to answer the question 'what is pearl st. expected to provide to members and what pearl st. expects of its members

Emphasize participation

Nancy said she will put a piece of paper in the dinning room for people to write their comments on

Should mention the cost and convenience factors

21st.

they went through the list

Don't ignore or not talk about the affordability and convenience

Educational advantages

Parties, we have them and they are fun

Computers, darkroom, 24 hour leftovers

Tell prospective members that students set rents and budgets

Laurel House

No response at house meeting

Arun will post material at the house and solicit suggestion

Taos

The taos membership coordinator was not at this meeting

The next thing we discussed at the meeting was the amenities at each of the different houses. We went through an old College Houses brochure as a starting point. What follows is a list what each of the houses has. To the membership coordinators, please go over this

21st Street ♦ Laurel House ♦ Opsis ♦ Pearl Street ♦ Taos

list in detail at your house meeting.

Pearl

- Four blocks from campus
- It can accommodate approximately 120 members
- Rooms are 10x17 with built in drawers, sink, counter, and closet
- Rooms also come furnished with a bed, desk, and a chair
- Cable TV accessible in each room
- Ceiling fans
- Pool room
- fireplace
- Laundry facilities
- Nice second floor balcony/porch
- Piano
- Swimming pool with sundeck
- Spontaneous water volleyball
- Pool and ping pong tables
- TV room with VCR and cable
- Darkroom
- Computer room with 2 PC's and a Mac
- Some parking
- Study room
- Vegetarian meal option at each meal
- Cookie/Movie nights
- 24 hour snacks- leftovers, cereal, milk, PB and J's, chips, bread, coffee, and tea
- Educational events- speakers, seminars, workshops
- Central heat and A/C
- Coffee house
- Computer network?
- Local newspaper and NY times subscriptions
- Recreational events

21st

- 3 1/2 blocks from campus
- Houses 100 members
- Moveable furniture
- Single rooms 10x14
- double rooms 12x15
- Beds, desks with chair, and wardrobes provided
- Balconies on all upper level rooms
- some rooms have lofts with vaulted ceilings
- Nice front and back lawns
- TV temple with cable and VCR
- Commons area with pool and ping pong tables, fireplace, and stereo
- Suites- the house is divided into 12 suites each with their own living room and kitchenette
- Computer room with one PC and one Mac
- Darkroom
- Ceiling fans in every room
- Central heat and A/C
- Laundry facilities

Parking
Vegetarian meal option at each meal
Piano
Educational events- speakers, seminars, workshops
Community events- parties with live bands, intramural sports teams
24 hour snacks- leftovers, cereal, milk, PB and J's, chips, bread, coffee, and tea
newspaper subscriptions- local and NY times

Laurel House

Two blocks from UT
Accommodates 44 students
Rooms are 10x13
Singles only
Rooms includes a bed, built-in dresser, shelves, desk and closet
Dining room
T.V. room/living room
Front and back lawn
Sundeck
Educational events
No communal bathrooms
Mostly graduate students
Smaller membership
Quiet atmosphere
Great meals
Cookie Night on Thursdays
Special Holiday meals
Annual Holiday Party
Central heat and a/c
House Macintosh
House IBM

Taos

KC please go over the enclosed brochure and add or delete amenities and bring the corrections to the next sunday meeting.

After we went over the house amenities list we all took five minutes and wrote down an answer to the question "what does a co-op mean to you, or what does your particular coo-p mean to you". Next we all read our responses and they were all different to some extent. An idea came up that we might want to use a few personal statements on the front of the brochure as a way to explain what coo-ps are like. It was a very fruitful exercise. To the membership coordinators: Please repeat this process at your house and collect and bring all responses to the next Sunday meeting.

Next we went through two pages of material that David had written on some of the topics we discussed the week before. These are included with some comments from the meeting in this hand out.

To the membership coordinators: You should do two things this week at your membership meeting: first, go through the list of amenities

and make corrections, second, repeat the exercise of answering the question what is a co-op, or what does the co-op you live in mean or represent to you.

The next meeting is Sunday June 28th at 7:00 - 9:00pm. All those interested are invited to attend. See ya there.

Other tidbits: Maybe include description of what you do at the individual co-ops, i.e. at Pearl Harbor, out by pool etc.

MEALS

17 all you can eat meals a week are prepared for you during the fall and spring semesters. 3 meals a day Monday through Friday and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday and Sunday mornings the full kitchen is open and you are welcome to cook your own breakfast. On Saturday and Sunday nights and 24hrs a day, all the left overs from meals are available for you to eat along with peanut butter and jelly, cereal, fruit, coffee and tea. Although only 17 meals a week are prepared for you, as you can see you will never go hungry (and you won't be spending a fortune on late night snacks at fast food restaurants or pizza) Need something about brown bags and save plates.

Meeting comments: Kitchen really is not accessible on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Milk is also available. Definitely need something about brown bags and save plates with handy microwave.

LABOR

All members are required to do 4-5 hours of labor a week to keep the house running. 80% of labor revolves around cooking or cleaning up after meals. The other 20% is divided up between minor maintenance, yard and grounds upkeep, and other odd jobs (recycling person, mail sorter, movie night person, computer manager, education council representatives, committee chairpersons, community facilitator, etc.)

There are two different categories of labor: chart labor and non-chart labor. Chart labor consists of tasks that require people to be somewhere at a certain time and place. (i.e. Wednesday dinner cook has to be in the kitchen from 2-6 every Wednesday). Off chart labor does not have specific time and place associated with it. If one is assigned non-chart labor, like vacuuming the hall, you have all week to complete the job. This allows people that have fluctuating work and school schedules to do the job when they have time during the week.

How is labor assigned? At the beginning of every semester you will fill out a labor request sheet. An example of what one day would look like is below. For every day of the week you fill in the daily chart with X's and N's. X's are when you can't do labor because of work or school. N's are when you don't really want to do labor but you could if you had to (like breakfast cook). The rest of the space should be left open for the labor Czar to be able to assign you labor. Also included on the sheet you fill out will be a section where you can list your top five labor choices in order. Usually you can get most of the labor you request.

Need a few words on the social and community aspects of labor.

Meeting comments: Elected person for oversight of labor system. Something about penalties if you don't do your labor. Talk about seniority at some houses for the labor system. Room lottery at 21st street. Don't go into so much detail about the labor system just say there is chart and off-chart labor. Don't want to give people the impression that they will get off-chart labor.

We didn't get a chance to go over these items at the meeting, but we will next time.

MEETINGS

Meetings are where you see the democracy of the cooperative in action. All house business is decided at meetings. As a member you should attend at least one house meeting a week in order to participate fully in your house and to keep up with what is going on. House committees that meet once a week are kitchen\labor (deals with all kitchen issues and all labor issues) Membership (deals with all membership issues and application processing) Finance (deals with house finances and member finances), Social Recreation (deals with house activities and parties). As the need arises other different committees are created and expire.

LABOR HOLIDAY

Once a semester, usually at or near the beginning, the house has a labor holiday. Though it may sound like a time when no labor gets done it is actually the opposite. Every member is required to put in an extra four hours of work doing jobs that take a lot of people. It is really an excellent way to get to know your fellow coopers and it instills pride in your house for having invested time and energy doing some project. Really its fun!

PARKING

Lots of parking is available, but the number of cars varies from semester to semester, so parking can't unfortunately be guaranteed for every member in the house. In order to have some control over who uses our parking lot members that do have cars are required to buy a parking sticker, but the cost is minimal, usually between \$1 and \$5 per semester. Maybe a sentence about how many parking spots are available and the percentage chance of getting a spot should be included here.

WHAT IS THIS CO-OP THING ANYWAY?

People know what an apartment is, and they know what a dorm is, but a cooperative is an alien concept to most people because they have not been exposed to it or when they were they didn't realize that it was a co-op. Please take a few minutes and read this brochure so you can understand what it is before you make a decision on where you are going to live for possibly the next 9 months. College Houses is first and foremost a place to live while you are in school getting an education. To that end it provides you with a place to live, eat your meals, and be close to campus. A student housing co-op provides the basic services that students need in order to give them a place where they can concentrate on their studies. A co-op is that but also much more.