

Next steps for 'Speak Your Peace'

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Last Thursday the community had the opportunity, through a series of meetings convened by Citizens4Community (C4C), to examine what civility is, how to encourage it, and then to identify current problems within the community that might benefit from those involved practicing the nine tenets of the Speak Your Peace (SYP) project.

Speak Your Peace: The Civility Project is a program that provides tools to help citizens communicate more respectfully and effectively. Following Thursday's meetings, on Friday morning anyone interested in being involved in promoting civility in Sisters was encouraged to attend a gathering to consider "where we go from here."

A group of about 30 people met to share ideas, concerns, and possible action steps to encourage a more civil public discourse in Sisters.

Larry Nelson, president of the Sisters Garden Club, shared his planned first step in practicing the nine tenets of the program (see accompanying graphic).

"I will spend each day and then do a report card at the end of the day. My personal goal is to work on self-evaluation before taking it (SYP) forward."

Kent Neff, C4C steering committee member, echoed Nelson's thoughts.

"A way to proceed is to orient our own self, practice civility, and spread it that way," he said.

National spokesperson for

SYP Rob Karwath used the image of a pond full of lily pads, with their edges touching. If one moves or shifts, the others are gently moved. So it is in a community; one person's actions reach out and touch others, who then reach out and touch others, and so on. However one person behaves spreads out across the pond.

Steering committee member Clark Brody suggested everyone consider the language they use when telling people about SYP. Invite them to reflect on the nine tools and give them time to consider the concept.

Jerry Norquist of Cycle Oregon would like to see letters to the editor in *The Nugget* be focused on issues and not personal attacks on individuals or groups.

There were several references on both Thursday and Friday to the concept of "building the field of dreams and they will come."

Karwath outlined several initial steps for the group to consider, based on his experience with other communities. He recommended printing more of the SYP cards to share with friends and neighbors. He encouraged scheduling more public discussions to keep the momentum going as well as providing a way to introduce the civility project to people unable to attend last week's gatherings. He reiterated the idea of individuals committing to practice the principles every day.

Jeff Campbell, Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) board chair, said he would be happy to be the first organization to adopt SYP but

realizes he needs to share it first with all the board members. Campbell encouraged the C4C steering committee "to continue to champion SYP and be available for mentoring and discussion."

Robyn Holdman, who first incubated the dream of SYP in Sisters, told the group she doesn't want to create another bureaucracy. She envisions C4C remaining nimble, maintaining good communication with the community, and reflecting the nine tools of civility.

C4C can act as a resource for groups as they begin to consider adopting a code for civility. They can also arrange to bring in more speakers to present on topics of interest to the community.



GRAPHIC COURTESY DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The nine tenets of the Speak Your Peace program can help promote public civility and community engagement in Sisters.

“It has been a joy to be here in Sisters... I feel the best I've felt when leaving a community. You are in your own good hands.”

— Rob Karwath

added.

Karwath left Sisters with a very positive impression of the physical town and the residents of Sisters Country.

"It has been a joy to be here in Sisters... I feel the best I've felt when leaving a

community. You are in your own good hands," he told the Friday group.

He was impressed with the extraordinary involvement of the residents, who he observed speaking with passion and listening intently.

A Partnership Beyond Your Expectations



Western Title & Escrow

Stop by and visit with Tiana Van Landuyt & Shelley Marsh.
220 S. Pine St., Ste. 102 | 541-548-9180

www.RealEstateInSisters.com



Phil Arends
Principal Broker
541-420-9997
phil@blackbutte.com
HOWELLS REALTY GROUP
220 S. Ash St., Sisters, OR 97759
Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon

SISTERS BLACK BUTTE RANCH
LUXURY PROPERTY LAND

Specializing in Central Oregon Rural Properties



Kathy Hansbrough
Broker, CDPE, GRI, SRE
Cell: 541-408-2998
Office: 541-728-0033
kjhansbrough@remax.net
www.kathyhansbrough.com

RE/MAX Key Properties
431 NW Franklin Ave. Bend, OR 97701
Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon

CUSTOM HOMES • RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS
Serving the Sisters Area Since 1976

J.P. Pierce
GENERAL CONTRACTING LLC
CCB# 16891
CCB# 159020

541-549-9764 • jpierce@bendbroadband.com

Cascade Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

OFFICES IN SISTERS, BEND AND SUNRIVER
PORTLAND, LAKE OSWEGO AND VANCOUVER
CANNON BEACH, MANZANITA AND GEARHART

CLEARPINE
Sisters, Oregon
www.clearpinesisters.com

LOTS FROM \$85,000
HOMES IN THE \$300's



CLEARPINE | LOTS \$85,000, HOMES STARTING IN THE \$300,000
Custom home community in a beautiful forest setting with centrally located park and access to National Forest trails. Home styles will include Prairie, American Four Square, Craftsman and Mid-century Modern. ClearPine builder partners and designs now available to create your dream home. www.clearpinesisters.com

Patty Cordoni, Principal Broker
patty.cordoni@sothebysrealty.com



541.771.0931

541.593.4277 | www.CASCADESOTHEBYSREALTY.COM

Each office is independently owned and operated.