

## Agenda points for Sunday's meeting

- About our vision: I thought each person could speak, for as long as they need, to express what would make them happy in going forward with this and what would make it an unhappy process. This is not so that we can focus on our own self interest, but as something to deeply think about beforehand, and as a way of getting to know each other better. Having a big vision with a goal out ahead of us is inspiring and helps to overcome obstacles. But, the vision needs to incorporate our personal needs and wants. What do we see ourselves doing in the future?

### **Herwig:**

*After watching the movie "Thrive" I thought it might be helpful to think already from the beginning of an agenda to expand, communicate and network with the good forces in the closer and wider area to eventually make an impact for many people and families to be liberated and join in a Blessed lifestyle.*

.... what would make them happy in going forward with this?

*This is not easy to put in a few words;*

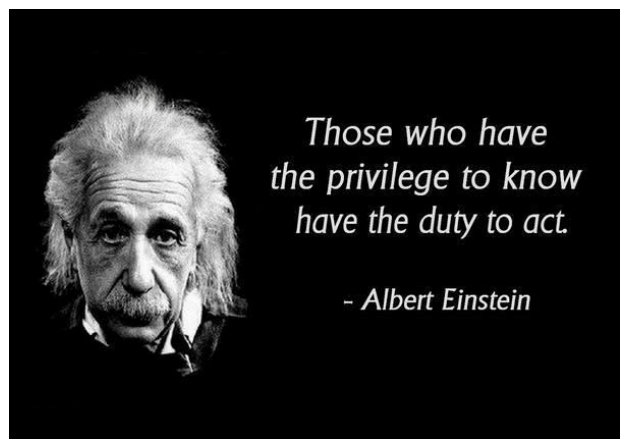
*generally it would make me happy to live in an 3 or 4 generation environment of blessed families – it's like the fulfillment of Home Church, it's also similar it has been for centuries and still is in many parts of the world – families living together in villages and tribes.*

*To establish, maintain and communicate a blessed lifestyle as a community of families we need internal and external tools.*

*Internal tools could be Consensus decision making, the sociocratic model, the co-counseling, principle based family values, etc.,*

*external could be (business) projects like "Growing Power - The good food revolution" or "Family Fish Farms, Inc. Washington, DC" involving interested 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation community members as well as guests, visitors, apprentices, teams from NGA ... and youth/adults from the local community combined with ongoing education (seminars, workshops, school, etc.) in many different areas.*

- Out of this process to create a vision statement. A common vision is important so that unconscious assumptions don't surface later on. (For instance, since we're a spiritual community, some may assume that we'll all be getting up and doing huna together or taking on responsibility for church mandates as they are issued, as a group. Others may not be at all interested in this. The degree to which we incorporate a 'spiritual' ideal needs to be discussed).
- About our mission: What specifically is it that is bringing us together. Do we merely want to be close to other families or do we want to create a specific entity, business, service project, farm, school, elderhaus – or whatever.



*Herwig: I would think of both, the blessing of being close to each other with all the benefits of a blessed lifestyle (we might have to grow into it first) and one or more projects for many people to connect with.*

- Based on vision and mission, what kind of central building/common area do we want to find or build; on what kind of land?

*Herwig: What I prefer so far is an already developed larger acreage of land with – public buildings – on it (including water, sewer, roads, etc.) plus building rights for single/multifamily homes and business (farming, etc.)*

- What kind of time frame are we looking at – to actually up and move to the decided area and begin work on the project?
- How much money will it take to create our ultimate product? How much can we start to pool as earnest money? Who will be responsible for such an account? How many families do we need to create the kind of vision/mission we're talking about? Do we want to actually talk about how much each of us is willing to commit financially?

*Herwig: Once the above points are deeper discussed and consensus found, more families from the BFA group "Intentional Communities" could be introduced and invited to join this project.*

- What do we see ourselves doing in the creation of an intentional community? What roles we see ourselves playing going forward from this meeting. It may be too soon to assign roles, but we should talk about how we see ourselves and each other taking on specific duties – voting on who could do what. What skills do we bring to the project? Are we going to be the brains or the brawn? For instance, do we have the desire to physically work to clear property, fix up existing buildings? Or would we want to hire others to do that kind of thing?

*Herwig: I think in the beginning everyone will be involved in both, later committees can be created with people which enjoy doing specific things*

- Decision making structure. How do we make decisions going forward? Who has the right to a say in any aspect of the creation or running of this community? Is this based on a financial commitment? People who have a tentative interest in joining our group may want to have input. How is this handled? (If we use consensus as the decision making process, Diana suggests that one of us should be trained in it so that power imbalances do not ensue and so that conflicts are heard and handled in a good way). Chapter 6 in Diana's book, 'Creating a Life Together' goes into this issue comprehensively. At the meeting, perhaps I or someone should read aloud pages 56 - 60 on what consensus is and how it works. If we adopt it, it should really help us have effective future meetings.

*Herwig: Absolutely – it couldn't be expressed in a better way!*

*I also think consensus is a very good and principled way of decision making – the group has to train it, though, it will have great benefits!*

*I like the phrase on page 58 .. "in consensus conflicts are seen as a catalyst to creating more innovative solutions and crafting an agreement out of all the different concerns that people raise."*

*Consensus empowers **a group as a group!** It's a philosophy of inclusion.*

- About land: we are all having fun looking at properties on the internet. Perhaps we need to talk about land issues at this meeting. Who would be willing to get educated in zoning, licensing, working on finding the best legal entity for us to form? Do we want to find a developer outside our group? Do we want the developer to be one of us? It will take considerable time and energy. They will probably be

dealing with the investment side (investors/banks). Will we re-imburse who ever takes on this role? How? What specifically will they be doing? For that matter, will any of us be expecting re-imbursement for our time and energy going forward? What if some of us put in huge chunks of effort and others relatively little? How do we keep things going forward if responsibilities bog down?

- How often will we meet going forward? Where will we meet?

These are the agenda items I've thought of so far. I don't really know if this is too much or too little to accomplish in the first meeting.

Please feel free to comment on these agenda points, adding, clarifying, etc. It's possible that I've left out huge areas that need to be discussed.

Thanks,

Sue

302-791-0246