

The ninth Community Dialogue was held on 26 July 2022 at Touwsrante Community Hall.

33 people from Hoekwil and Touwsrante came to the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Morné Heunis, Roslynn Damons, Shireen Miller and Sharon Appels.

In the previous meeting we agreed that meetings of the community dialogue last an hour and a half. The meeting took place on the same day as a school meeting which led to some people not making it to the meeting and a large number of people leaving early to attend the school meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to create a mission statement for the dialogue, and to ensure everyone leaves the meeting knowing what to say when asked what the dialogue is and how it works.



Agreeing on how we want to meet

Participants in the meeting agreed that these things that are important for how we want to be together:

Willingness

Equality

Feedback

Respect

Trust

Assistance and Persistence

Keep the movement going

Getting to know the role players

Understanding Issues

Bravery

Courage

Open Minds

Supporting Each Other

Committment

Communication

Open for uncomfortable conversations

Teamwork

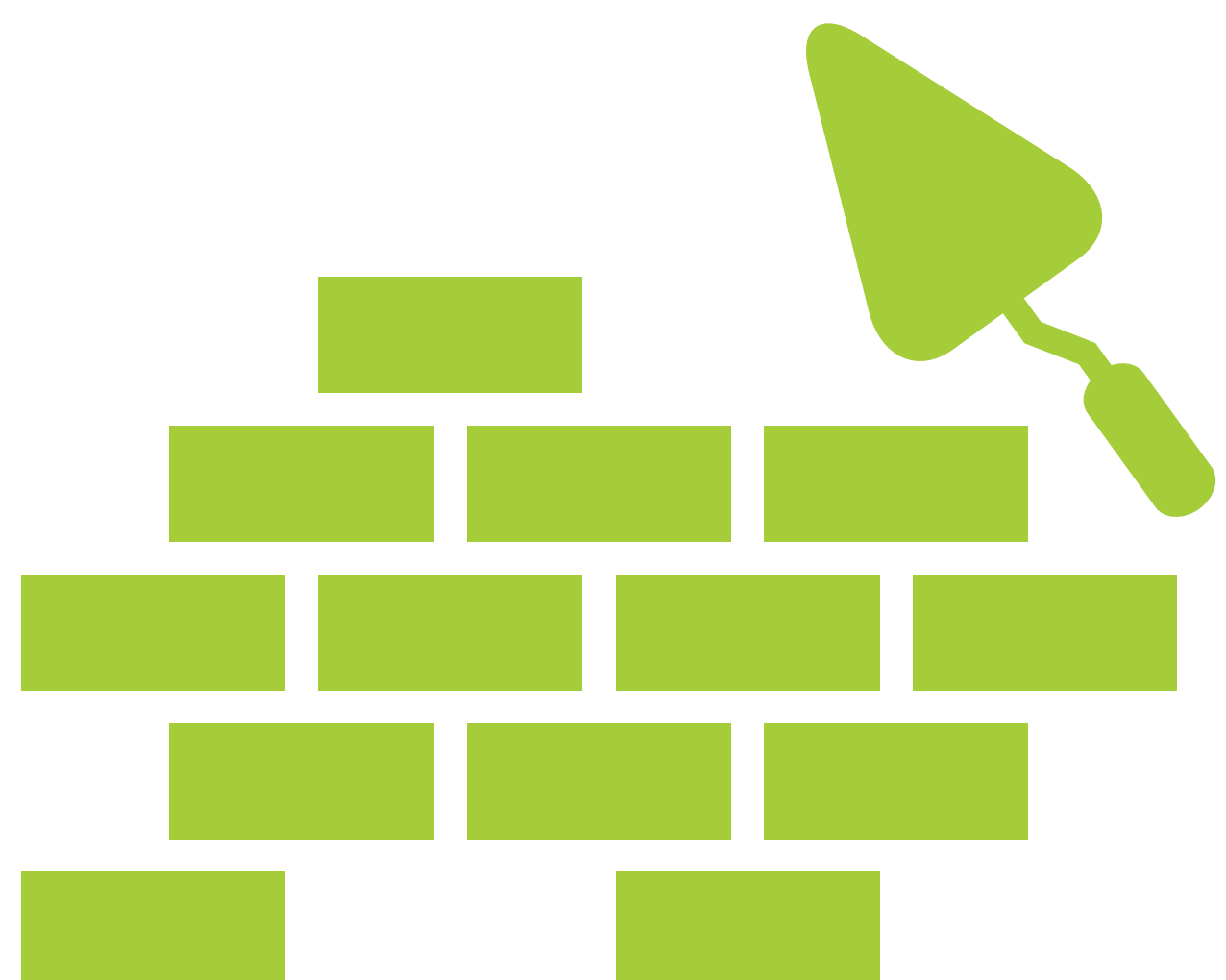
Having time out when needed

Resilience and Tenacity

Fun

Love

Honesty



Deepening our Knowledge of our Community

Shireen Miller facilitated a session about the history of Touwsrante and Hoekwil. It was called “Two truths and a lie”.

Two volunteers read statements in English and Afrikaans about our community and its history and everyone had a chance to guess which statements were true and which were lies.

The intention of this process was to show both communities that there is a positive history of self-sufficiency in our community and to help us to find a way forward from a position of remembering stories of strength and resilience



Discussion



Participants moved into four groups to discuss what they would like to achieve with this dialogue process. This would inform a mission statement of the Community dialogue as discussed in the previous meeting.

These are some of the elements that emerged from the discussion

The dialogue intends to:

Build a bridge between communities

Find common ground and build trust to establish a safe, secure and economically prosperous community

Build a safe and inclusive community by dealing with challenges together

Encourage and enable youth involvement in community development

Discussion



After presenting their ideas to each other the groups were merged into two groups to refine their ideas and come up with a mission statement. In the end the two groups came up with two mission statements to choose from and refine.

The Community Dialogue is:

A dialogue to create an inclusive vibrant community by creating opportunities that will uplift whilst establishing peace

Two communities coming together with the aim to find common ground, build trust & establish a safe, secure & economically prosperous environment for all

Other issues agreed on included:

There is a need for a focus on the youth so that they can be positively involved and motivated to contribute to building a safe and prosperous community

There is a need to come up with ideas to help the youth who have skills to realize their potential

The market group reported that they are working on arranging two more flea markets before December and extended an invitation for at least one more person to help them organize these

Reflections on the Process



Those in attendance included the Touwsranten librarian, principal of the ECD as well as the clinic sister, their feedback was that they found value in attending the meeting and agreed that the platform is needed and requires the support of the community.

Most individuals shared positive feedback, stating that they felt the dialogue was making progress but some shared that they thought the meetings were a talk shop and they wanted to see action which raised the following questions:



The process to add new members on the WhatsApp group, do all the sub groups have a WhatsApp group?



When are new members informed of existing sub groups and what is the process to join a group?



Is there a protocol for discussions on the group?
Members noted that the WhatsApp group is inactive and found this to be disheartening

Conclusion and Way Forward

It was proposed that a board should be established to take the two ideas and work on them to create the final mission statement and present it to the dialogue in order to ensure that the next meeting does not lead to spending more time on this. It was suggested that the subgroups meet between this meeting and the next, so that there could be action.

The Groups

Flea Market Group

Substance Abuse Group

Skills Audit

Those present felt that the next meeting should focus on the “How” and for people to come up with ideas on what could be done.

Members of the community were invited to get involved in a vegetable growing competition which will be taking place soon.

It was suggested that the meetings will take place every last Tuesday of the month.



The next meeting is on 30 August at 5h30pm
at Touwsrante Community Hall

Attendees List

Morne Heunis

Shireen Miller

Andisiwe Makwecana

Roslynn Damons

Sharon Appels

Helen Vurten

Denzel De Swardt

Susan Agrella

Walter Damons

Mila Gould

Anelisiwe Fana

Nina Muller

Sharon Fisher-Buys

Genevieve Nkemise

Bennie Boshoff

Lemise April

Aubrey Fredericks

Melaney Buys

Francine Rubin

Marian Andrews

Joey Abrahams