

# Introduction to Community Council



Community council is a group of everyday people creating extraordinary places where they live. This is a different kind of community gathering. So here's some information about how it works.

There are four main parts of Community Council:

1. We **Check-In** to set a positive tone for the evening. The person leading this part of Community Council will ask if anyone would like to share something "**New and Good.**" People often mention births and anniversaries, new jobs or challenges that they have overcome. Try to keep it personal. This is **not** the time to talk about an event or a program that your organization is sponsoring. Save that for the Marketplace (see below).
2. The **Marketplace** gives us each a chance to share with our neighbors – to ask for what we need and to offer what we have. The Marketplace leader will go around the room, and you'll have 30 seconds to make an offer, request or declaration and see if there is a "match" in the room. If you go beyond your time limit, the audience will use their noisemakers to let you know your time is up. If you don't want to say anything, you can pass.
  - a. Example of an **offer**: "I am willing to teach someone how to sew."
  - b. Example of a **request**: "I would like someone to go with me to one of the exercise classes in the neighborhood."
  - c. Example of a **declaration**: "I will spend \$50 this month at locally owned businesses."
3. **Business of the Network** conversations are brief (20 minutes) small-group conversations based on questions that people here tonight want to explore. It's a time to ask for the wisdom of your neighbors and to find out who shares your interests and concerns. This is **not** the time to make a presentation or to tell your neighbors what you think they should be doing. It's also **not** the time to publicize or promote your organization's programs or to do research for a class that you're taking in college. We'll break into five small groups. Each group will go to a different part of the library. After 20 minutes, we'll come back together as a large group and someone from each conversation group will share an important point or plan of action from their conversation.
4. We end the evening with **Bumping and Sparking**, a time for us to network, exchange contact information and have follow-up conversations.