

TNT Long Term Planning Meeting
March 30, 2008

Attendees:

Lydia Bardua
Shannon Steckel
Sarah Bingcang
Greg Fesko
Stacey McKinney
Catherine O'Christie
John Gardner
Mark Bartsch
Carrie Bartsch

Lydia began by clarifying her role in TNT. She is not the “leader” of the group, but only the staff liaison. She needs to know what is happening so she can report back to Fr. Tom, but she does not need to OK events. Some TNT members have expressed confusion about this in the past, thinking that she was the primary person organizing events. The goal is to have events planned and organized by members of the entire group, not just a few people. Recently, it has seemed as though Lydia was in the “critical path” to getting events organized, despite the fact that she has been very busy.

Lydia polled the group about things that people liked about the group and things that could be improved. Items mentioned:

Regularly scheduled Second Saturday events are good
The diversity of events held is good
Having babysitting available is good
It would be nice to plan more social events
The outdoor socials from last summer were fun, maybe we should do them again?
Going out to restaurants (like when we went to Olive Garden) is fun
Getting responses about events is often difficult

Mark asked if restructuring the e-mail list so that all replies go to the entire group would help encourage responses. That way people know who else has responded and is interested in attending. It was noted that this would increase e-mail traffic substantially, but perhaps it would be possible to enable a daily summary or digest of e-mails. This is feasible with Google Groups, which has been considered as a mailing list provider. Another advantage would be the ability for people to subscribe or unsubscribe at will. A disadvantage of Google Groups is the requirement that members have Google accounts. Facebook was also mentioned as a possibility, and Theology on Tap uses Wordpress. More research is needed to determine what capabilities these services provide.

Carrie suggested that having a more formal leadership committee or defined leadership roles might ease the burden on Lydia. One role that was discussed involved ensuring that scheduled events are on track to being organized and carried out by communicating with organizers in advance. Shannon volunteered to serve in this capacity.

An idea was presented that an “event planning kit” should be developed to help TNT members who might not know how to plan events. This “kit” would provide guidance for things like reserving rooms at St. Francis, when to send out event announcement e-mails, how to get bulletin and Mass announcements, how to handle donations and reimbursements, and so on. Lydia, Mark, Carrie, Shannon, and Sarah volunteered to work as a committee to put together this “kit.”

Another role that was discussed involved welcoming new members and following up with first-time event attendees – a “hospitality” group. Catherine volunteered to work head up this effort. A “new member’s social” was also suggested to welcome new members into the group and let them get to know existing members.

The next several Second Saturday events were discussed. Currently, we have organizers listed for April, May, and June. The group will follow up with these people to see if they need help. Several attendees expressed a willingness to plan or assist in planning Second Saturday events.

The idea of having outdoor “summer socials” (like the end of last summer) was mentioned, since they are very easy to plan. The group liked the idea, but there was discussion regarding whether these would be the Second Saturday events, or separate from them. The group concluded that the July and August Second Saturdays could be “summer social”-type events because a variety of other events are likely to be scheduled given the nice weather (hiking, canoe trips, camping, etc.). Additionally, a day trip to King’s Island was suggested for this summer.

The following events for the coming months were discussed.

April 5th – TNT Retreat at St. Francis

April 12th – 2nd Saturday at St. Francis, details TBA

April 25th – Singles event

May 10th – 2nd Saturday, tentatively scheduled as a cookout

May 18th – Hiking trip after 11 AM Mass; pack brown bag/picnic lunch; location TBD

If rain, maybe Laser Tag in Centerville

Sunday in June – Day trip to King’s Island

June 1st – Follow-up planning meeting after 11 AM mass

June 14th – 2nd Saturday, details TBA

July 10, 17, 24, 31 – Theology on Tap South, Fox and Hound, Centerville, OH

August – Overnight camping trip

Parents activities

A Kentucky Derby Party?

Movie nights