

JONESTOWN TOWN MEETING



JUNE 11, 1977

JONESTOWN LEGION HUT
JONESTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

38639

June 11, 1977

THE NEW SONG

Jonestown Town Meeting

JONESTOWN

(Tune: My Country 't)s of Thee)

My Jonestown, home for thee
Sweet town of liberty
O' Thee we dream.

Home where our life may shine,
Where we'll walk hand-in-hand
From every land to land,
Let it be known---

This is a town of pride
A town of liberty
Of this we dream.

Long may our town improve
with patience and with pride
We'll work together side by side
Jonestown's alive!

June 11, 1977

THE NEW STORY

Jonestown Town Meeting

During the year of 1863, Tom Jones and his family were seeking a place to settle. They came south of Memphis and saw a vacancy that we shall call Jonestown. On this piece of land they settled.

Now in the '70's we have been through a lot and have accomplished a lot. Mayor Shanks helped acquire our first sewage system for Jonestown.

Our future dreams are for a community that works together for a full time fire department, for factories, for a recreation center and for new homes.

What greater adventure could anyone look forward to?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Business Development

In the arena of business development, the fact that we have been a thriving area for 200 years and that there is a slow turn-over of money, indicates that the underlying contradiction is that there is no industry in Jonestown. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. The need for improved drainage and sewage systems.
2. Buildings downtown and in residential areas are rundown.
3. Lack of available jobs.
4. Businesses are mixed in with residential areas.
5. Lack of funds to correct this situation.

GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES

Knowledge of Town Government Workings

In the arena of understanding taxation procedures and town government, the fact that people don't understand the governing procedures of our town or the tax base structure, indicates that the underlying contradiction is that information has not been offered to the public and the public has no insight into the workings of the town government. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. No printed information on our tax base.
2. No workshops on the political procedures of this town.

Leadership Support

In the arena of community services, the fact that there are no available buildings for the town's use, indicates that the underlying contradiction is an inexperience and nervousness in supporting Black leadership. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. There are no day care centers in Jonestown.
2. There is no recreation for senior citizens.
3. No participation in decision making by the local citizen. People sit back and watch what the officials will do.

CULTURAL CHALLENGES

Working Together

In the arena of social brotherhood, the fact that we have economic and social class distinctions and jealousy among all factions of the community, indicates that the underlying contradiction is that people have not been taught the possible ways that they can work together. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. Lack of community get-togethers because of job back-ground.
2. Lack of jobs.
3. Different standards of living and different housing.

Volunteering to help the community

In the arena of community recreation, the fact that no one volunteers to lead or plan for community events, indicates that the underlying contradiction is we have been down so long that there are no examples of moving forward to plan for events. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. Lack of organized clubs.
2. Lack of volunteers to fill these roles.
3. No planned events to beautify Jonestown.
4. Run-down buildings downtown on Main Street.

Responsible Citizenship

In the arena of citizen participation, the fact that there is a lack of citizen interest in the overall community indicates that the underlying contradiction is that we don't feel responsible for the total community's welfare. This contradiction is best illustrated by:

1. No volunteers to work with youth.
2. No boy scouts or girl scouts.
3. People don't travel to one part of the community but stay in their part of town.
4. No community get-togethers.

CULTURAL PROPOSALSSocial Clubs

We the citizens of Jonestown, Miss., in order to build better human relations, improve self and community image, propose to form social clubs, block clubs, youth and parent clubs through:

1. Inviting neighbors over for refreshments
2. Forming a block club by June 20th.
3. Discussing ways to improve and beautify our block.
4. Assigning a block chief to make sure our task is carried out.

Forming diverse special task forces

We the citizens of Jonestown, Miss., in order to solve specific problems and spread leadership, utilize special talents, propose to improve the ~~positive and improve relations through:~~ self and community image, accent the positive and improve relations through:

1. forming committees and organizing block clubs.
2. Holding a potluck supper.
3. Fostering a community clean-up day before or by July 1st, 1977.

Social Community-wide Activities

We the citizens of Jonestown, Miss., in order to develop a more cohesive community and improve our social activities among all of our citizens, propose to sponsor some community-wide supper on July 1st, 1977 at 6:30pm at the Jonestown Elementary School, through:

1. Form task force committee.
2. Make assignments for food, public relations, recreational activities and clean-up.

Community Activities

We the citizens of Jonestown, Miss., in order to build community awareness and to improve the community's social and economic problems, propose to have a community clean-up day through:

1. Organizing a clean-up committee
2. Dividing the town into sections and appointing individuals to each section.
3. Hold the clean-up on July 1st, 1977.

Improving Public Image

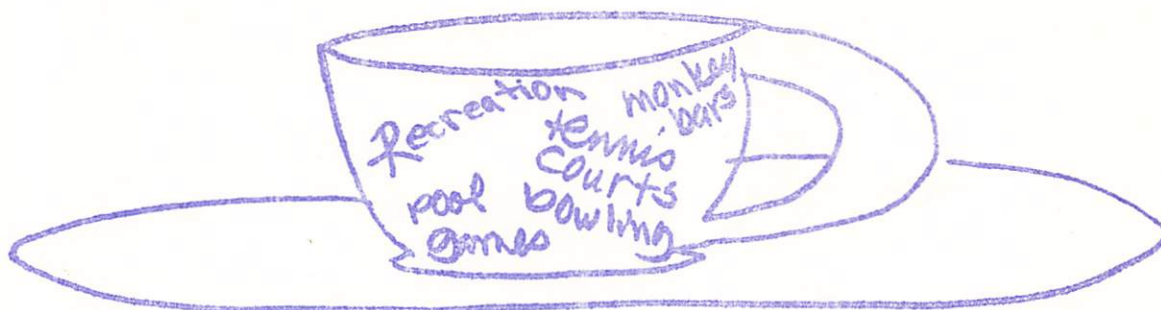
We the citizens of Jonestown, Miss., in order to improve and widen the community's image of itself and increase our knowledge and to create greater concern in our citizens, propose to publish a newsletter and leaflets through:

1. beginning parents clubs
2. Youth clubs
3. Town forums
4. Finding new leadership

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JONESTOWN CHILDRENS TOWN MEETING Jonestown Town Meet

Symbol



Song
Jonestown 's Children's Song
(Tune: Sir Duke, by Stevie Wonder)

Jonestown is a town within itself
With some people who all understand
With a chance for opportunity
For all ~~us~~ to work and to clean up their land
Just because you work a little bit
Don't make you work to much
You can tell right away by the letter A
When people start to work.

Children's Proposal

We the children of Jonestown community, in order to improve our town,
propse to provide our recreational activities that we need through:

1. having conferences witht the mayor.
2. having parents visit the mayor and board of aldermen.
3. Fund raising through merchant's donations and applying for federal funds.

July 11, 1977

CONTRIBUTORS

Jonestown Town Meeting

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

McDonalds (Jackson), Mack Robinson, owner
McDonalds, (Delta), Mike Retzer, owner
Redd Pest Control
IBM
Irby Foundation
Jackson Hilton
Exxon, Memphis, Tenn.
Gesitner Corp, Memphis, Tenn.

Also contributing:

Greco Printing
Scottish Inn, Vicksburg
Uptown Motor Inn, Clarksdale
Best Western Motel, Greenville
Downtown Motor Inn, Greenville
Wendy's
Ponderosa, Clarksdale

Local Contributors for the Jonestown Town Meeting:

McDonalds, Clarksdale-hamburgers
Delta Packing Co., Clarksdale-hot dogs
Jans Chin-Jonestown, garbage bags & cokes
Frank's Dairy Bar, Jonestown, ice
Columbus Wing, Jonestown- cokes
Liberty Cash, Clarksdale- sandwich spread
Wonder Bread, Clarksdale- hot dog buns
Coca Cola, Clarksdale- cokes

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jonestown Town Meeting

Sponsors of the Town Meeting: Mayor Shanks and Nathaniel Brooks

Along with:

Child Care-Edia Giffin
Brenda Bumper

Food preparation and hosting-

Mrs. Myrtle Shanks
Miss Jane McBaber
Edia Giffin
Brenda Bumper
Isaac Sheed
Mary Ann McBaber

In Cooperation with The Institute of Cultural Affairs

Workshop Leaders:

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