

NWCCOG Regional
Economic Development
Summit

May 1, 2025



Imagine



Rules

- Stand in Groups of Three
- Close enough to reach out and touch shoulders
- Best if you DON'T know Each other's Names





Rules

- No Name, Job Title, Workplace
- Why I do what I do? Whatever that means to you.
- Why I came here today?
- One thing my colleagues don't know about me.
- 2 - Minutes Each, On the Bell



Rules

- Now, Introduce your **RESUME-SELF**
- Return to your Seats
- On the Bell/Horn – 30 seconds each introduce each other at your table the “normal way”

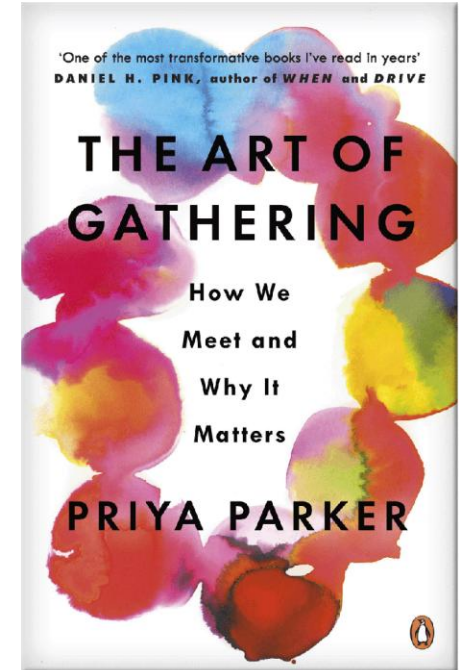


Gathering Tips

- Don't waste the precious first and last minutes of any gathering on Logistics
- Or on Sponsors
- Create a Temporary Alternative World

But First...

- Welcome
- Agenda
- Coffee, soda and snacks all day
- Lunch at 12:40
- Emergency Exits, Bathrooms, Recycle
- Foyer Talk
- Respect the Schedule
- Nice NLF baskets given if present at end
- Will finish no later than
 - 3:15 p.m. today





- Be an Active Host

- hosting is an exercise of power
- next time you host and feel impulse to abdicate, observe why
- generous authority is an act of compassion, of genuine leadership.
- provide structure – fun, inspiring, a clear agenda, road mapping a complex topic at a public hearing

- Equalize your Guests

- Why I set a rule for names and titles last
- We don't always mean to, but we often crush connections by signaling our importance, if only from our lack of confidence.

- *What did you think of the Active Hosting this morning?*



• Create a Temporary Alternative World

- Mayor, BOCC Chair, meeting leader
 - Job is to welcome, show leadership, structure, competence
- Facilitator, Host
 - Job is to displace people,
 - Hold Space – think of what a blanket does on lawn in a park
- The place sets the script – be aware
- Event “Density is Important”



- **Connect your Guests –**

- Gypsum Mayor Steve Carver example
- He decompressed a very tense housing meeting with opposing groups on opposite sides of the aisle. Before starting the meeting, he asked people to get up and introduce themselves to their neighbors. Genius. Create Civility.
- Why don't we start every small town meeting that way?

- *How did we connect you this morning?*



- **Expect Guests to follow Rules:**

- Ask first, before speaking,
- Make sure everyone else has a portion before serving yourself, create connections
- It got me thinking about how often we let an individual hijack a meeting, an event, how we allow that in the name of “free speech” or “tolerance” or “diversity” without respecting all the other people in the room.
- *How were the rules useful this morning? Did you go along with the exercise?*



• Thoughtful exclusion

- Don't Invite Bob, p. 43
- We invite people out of obligation rather than purpose
- About Bobs, Parker writes: "Once they are actually in your presence, you (and guests) will want to welcome and include them which takes time and attention away from what (and who) you are actually there for. Particularly in smaller gatherings, every single person effects the dynamics of the group. Excluding well and purposefully is reframing who and what you are being generous to – your guests and your purpose."



- **Size Matters –**

- No dead weight, intense with just 6-person group
- Twelve Person Group, usually enough to be around a table, this is a breaking point for new companies
- Parker prefers 6, 12-15, 30, and 150.
- Above 150, people can't "see" everyone,
- The "tribe" breaks down,
 - "Intimacy and trust for the room is still palpable at this level
 - (150) is just before it becomes an audience."

- Thank You to our Sponsors





- Exciting Day Ahead
 - Setting the Baseline for us, Greg Totten, Economist at the State Demographer's office
 - Then a panel on Childcare Solutions
 - Then a panel on Workforce Housing Solutions
 - After Lunch, Two Celebrities in Tourism World
 - Special Presentation by Meredith Marshall of OEDIT on "Factors Impacting Resiliency"
 - Questions?