



# Social Infrastructure

*The nuts and bolts of building community*

Presented by **Vicky Wason, Linda Reed and Marina Price**

**Wasatch Commons, Salt Lake City, UT**



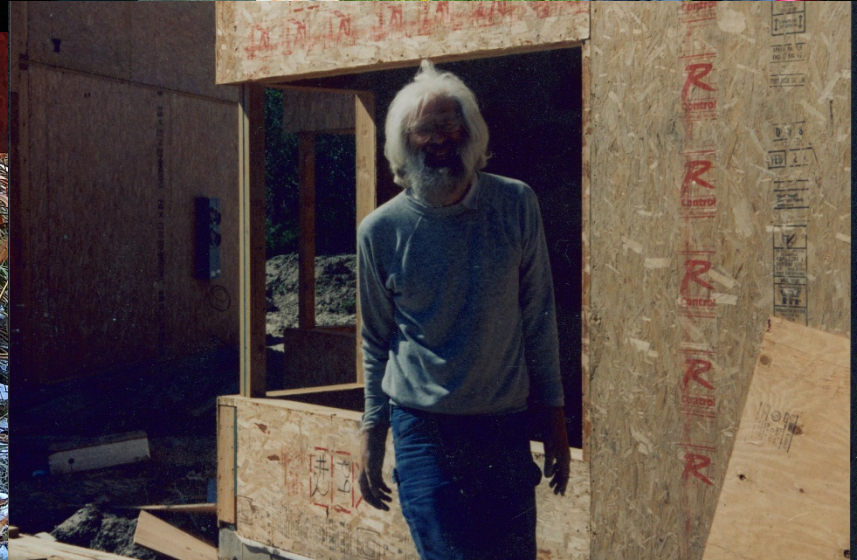


**WASATCH COMMONS**

**A CO-HOUSING COMMUNITY**

**EST. 1998**











# Common Meals

## Styles

- Potluck Style
- Cooking Teams
- Assigned
- Cafe

## Frequency

Range from every night to once or twice a month







**Those (*cohousing communities*) who eat together  
more frequently exhibit higher levels of *communitas***

*"How Cohousing Can Make Us Happier (and live longer)"*

Ted Talk by Grace Kim, architect





# Sharing

## Resources:

Common House  
Lawnmowers  
Laundry  
Food

## Community Care:

Meal chain  
Rides  
Child/pet/plant care



# Shared Work & Self Management



**Attend Meetings**

**Serve on a Committee**

**Serve on a Common  
House Workteam**

**Contribute 2 Hours  
(*minimum*) Pay-or-Play**



# Governance

- **Vision and Values**
- **Why do we do this?**
- **How do we do this?**
  1. ACM
  2. Proposals
  3. Consensus











# Social Events

Important. Very important.

This community will use any excuse to get together and call it a party

- Holidays
- Made-up holidays
- Excuses for barbeques





# Other Social Events

book club, other club, craft night, movie night, painting afternoon, meeting for dinner, going to movie, happy hour, bonfires, fundraiser, game night, talent show, party in the garden ...

Planning

Planning the clean up



# Resources and Contact Information

## How Cohousing Can Make Us Happier (and live longer)

*Ted Talk by Grace Kim, architect*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/grace\\_kim\\_how\\_cohousing\\_can\\_make\\_us\\_happier\\_and\\_live\\_longer/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/grace_kim_how_cohousing_can_make_us_happier_and_live_longer/transcript)

## WebChat # 36 “Work Systems”

*by Mary Kraus on Cohousing.org*

## sociocracyforall.org

By Ted Rau (also books available thru website)

## Value-based Consensus Decision Making Flowchart

[www.consensus.net](http://www.consensus.net)

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*Contact any of us for the references below:*

## Our Wasatch Commons Resources

- **Wasatch Commons Email Guidelines**  
(Consented Proposal)
- **WC Proposal Guideline**  
In-house handout created to help individuals understand the proposal process at Wasatch Commons
- **Formal Consensus Process Flowchart**

