

## TriCon 2026 – Roundtable on Making Meetings More Dynamic

### Applying Priya Parker’s principle of purpose:

Turn General Purpose → Specific Purpose/s		Who’s invited?	Logistics	Activity @ Gathering
Recruit new members	Motivate interest in Rotary among newer local business owners	Club member business owners or customers invite	Casual environment, but semi-private so all can hear	Table discussion or facilitated introductions or?
Thank event sponsors	Provide public thanks for event sponsors among their peers	Club seeks time at another community event	Club delegation presents at a Chamber event?	Brief, but meaningful presentation of impact of each
Congratulate scholarship winners	Encourage, inspire scholarship winners beyond school environment	Young adult speaker Just students	Not school or club meeting venue Casual tone	Speaker, table activity on visioning, etc???
Your Club meeting				
Your Club meeting				
Your Club meeting				

## TriCon 2026 – Roundtable on Making Meetings More Dynamic

### Additional insights from The Art of Gathering:

- **Pay Attention to ‘Pre-Game’ Communication** - How are you warming me up for what I’ll do and feel at this meeting? Will it be a good one to bring a guest? What will get me over the hump of making the time and attention effort to attend? Our meeting announcement emails will help people be prepared for what to expect and look forward to. *[Chapter 5]*
- **Rules vs. Phones** – To combat the pressure of phones competing with peoples’ full presence at a meeting, Parker invites us to be bold and make our meeting time a ‘temporary alternative world’ with phone rules for our time together that help each participant play along for the hour, becoming an experimental ‘game’ and committed to their full attention. *[Chapter 4]*
- **Ask for People’s Concrete Experiences Over Their Abstract Ideas**- Parker observes that in business or other public environments, people often resort to making sure that they don’t look stupid and building real human connection is difficult. When we simply ask people to share stories about their concrete experiences, we lower anxiety since everyone is an expert in their own life. We can discover connections and appreciation in a more authentic way. *[Chapter 6]*
- **The Stranger Quotient** – It is often easier to get people to share when many in the room are unknown to them – or when they are helped to see those they do know with fresh eyes. Strangers, unconnected to our pasts, and in most cases, to our futures, are easier to experiment around. They create a temporary freedom to pilot test, free to choose what we want to show or become as a person or a club. “Fresh eyes” can also be accomplished through conversation starters that ask people to share stories about themselves that they believe no one else in the group has heard. *[Chapter 6]*
- **Cause Good, Fruitful Controversy** – Parker notes that when an organization seems stagnant, the choice to introduce some controlled contention with ground rules may be useful. Her first assessment of this possible need is to do a ‘heat map’ by asking yourself and others: What are people avoiding that they don’t think they’re avoiding? What are the ‘sacred cows’ here? What goes unsaid? What are we trying to protect and why? *[Chapter 7]*
- **Closings Matter** – Preparing attendees for ‘reentry’ into the day is helping them find a thread to connect the world of the gathering to the world outside. We often recite the Four Way Test as we close meetings – are we helping people see the meaning of carrying those principles out into the rest of our lives? *[Chapter 8]*

From: The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters, Priya Parker, Riverhead Books, 2018