

**Community Relations Committee  
MINUTES  
January 7, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Members present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Bob Lyford, Julie Stanish, Ann Wild, Lorraine Rendleman, Bridget Hartman, Alex Okuliar, Erin Kopelman, Aki Peritz, Julie Trocchio, Barbara Rose, Loretta Sevier, and Jean Carlson.

Guest: Aaron Presnall

Julie Stanish moved that the minutes of the December 3 meeting, as amended, be approved; Loretta Sevier seconded the motion; and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business—Events/Community Service:**

- Movie Night for Families: Jean Carlson and Bob Lyford reported that the showing of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* on Friday, December 11, was attended by about 42 adults and children. Attendees again helped with clean-up, which was much appreciated. The January 8 movie will be *Up*, followed by the February 12 movie *Finding Nemo*. Movies start promptly at 6 PM with pizza, popcorn, and drinks being served. Because of limited space, residents must RSVP. Adults must accompany their children for the entire event.
- Winter Outwear Clothing Drive: Ann Wild reported that the Committee, working with the Lawton Community Center, is doing very well in its collection of winter wear for those in need. As the bins fill, Town staff will continue to make their regular deliveries to Bethesda Cares and Interfaith Works. The deadline for donations is January 31. Collection bins for donations can be found in both the Town Hall and the Lawton Center.
- Holiday Gift Drive: Ann Wild reported that Town residents were extremely generous this year, providing an overwhelming \$4,000 in donations that, indeed, did brighten the holidays for domestic violence victims and their children, who are clients of the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program and Chesapeake Counseling. Donations, primarily of gift cards, but also some checks, were made, along with the adoption by Town residents of nine families to receive gifts. This drive could not have occurred without the very generous effort, yet again this year, by former Committee member Cathy Wolf. The numerous promotions about the drive, primarily through the Town Crier, definitely helped increase donations.
- Round House Theatre Event: Jean Carlson reported that 21 residents enjoyed the play *Stage Kiss* on Thursday, December 10. The Committee discussed holding another Round House event in the spring.

- Twentieth Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees: Ann Wild reported that the luncheon held this year on Wednesday, December 16, in the Town Hall attracted 35 residents, who appreciated the event very much. Given that the number was down from last year, the Committee may decide to hold this popular tradition a week earlier next year.
- Movie Nights for Grown-Ups: The Committee will show *Finding Vivian Maier* on Friday, January 15, at 7:30 PM. Loretta Sevier offered to coordinate the food; and Loretta, Bridget Hartman, Julie Stanish, Wicca Davidson, and Ann Wild volunteered to help with the event.
- Re-Gifting Event: New this year, this event is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, from 4–6 PM in the Town Hall. Residents are asked to bring a wrapped gift item that they did not like and exchange it for an item they do. Loretta Sevier agreed to coordinate the food; Wicca Davidson will work on how to run the event; and other Committee members volunteered to help. [UPDATE: Since this meeting, because of the two-foot snow storm, the event had to be canceled.]
- Magic Show: The Michael Chamberlain Magic Show is now scheduled for Friday, February 5, at 6 PM. RSVPs are required because space limitations. Pizza and beverages will be served. Erin Kopelman has agreed to coordinate this event.
- Discussion and Desserts: Aki Peritz will give a presentation on ISIS on Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 PM. Desserts and wine will be served.
- Town Chili Dinner: Wicca Davidson announced that the annual Town Chili Dinner at the Chevy Chase Elementary School will be held on Sunday, February 21, from 5:30–7 PM. The Committee voted to include the popular ice cream sundae bar. RSVPs are required. Residents are encouraged to leave donations (checks or cash) for the Manna Food Center, which works to meet the needs of more than 78,000 county residents who experience hunger and food insecurity. Barbara Rose, Bob Lyford, Lorraine Rendleman, Erin Kopelman, Wicca Davidson, and Ann Wild volunteered to help run the event.
- Town Centennial: The Committee had previously suggested asking the Town Council to appoint a separate committee to organize projects and events for the upcoming 2018 Town Centennial. Wicca Davidson reported that Al Lang, the Committee’s Liaison, has agreed to make the request to the Town Council to launch this committee.
- Soup’s On!: As an alternative to the Bake-Off of previous years, the Committee is planning a soup cooking contest with an outside judge and prizes. Wicca Davidson is working to secure a judge for the event, which the Committee hopes to hold in March.
- Movie/Discussion for Grown-Ups: The second Movie Night for Grown-Ups this year will feature the movie *Last Station Before Hell* to be followed by a talk by Lise Howard about the work of the UN Peacekeepers in various countries. This event, accompanied by desserts and wine, will be held on Friday, March 4, at 7 PM.

### **Old Business—Communications:**

- Discussion on Improving Town Communications: Town resident Aaron Presnall, a political economist specializing in telecommunications and participatory politics, met with the Committee for more than an hour to brainstorm ideas for improving Town communications to and from residents. At its February meeting, the Committee will discuss which suggestions to recommend for consideration by the Town Council.
- Event Suggestion Box: Following up on her previous suggestion, Julie Trocchio provided the Committee with a suggested brief survey that could be used at Town events. The Committee agreed to proceed and will put the survey, which will include information on how to subscribe to the Town Crier, on the each chair at events.
- Event Flyers: As discussed previously, to help inform residents about future events, Julie Stanish and Wicca Davidson are working on preparing flyers that announce upcoming events that will be posted at each event and in the locked bulletin board outside the Town Hall.

### **New Business—Events:**

- Concerts: The Committee is pursuing one or two possible concerts to be held in upcoming months.
- Progressive Dinner and Garden Tour: The Committee tabled until the February meeting the decision on whether one of these events will be held in 2016.

### **New Business—Communications:**

- Welcome Package: Although the Committee is eager to pursue this idea, because of time constraints, the discussion on this project was tabled until the February meeting.

### **Other Business:**

- Resignation of Title: Ann Wild announced that for personal reasons, she is resigning the formal title of Secretary for the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Wild