

Community Relations Committee Meeting

March 6, 2019

7:00 p.m. – Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members Present: Wicca Davidson (Acting Chair), Julie Stanish, Maryanne Courtney, Michele Marston, Emily Helms Williams, Barbara Rose, Anne deFontnouvelle, Cathy Wolf, Aki Peritz, Sheila Lieber

General Business

- The minutes of the February 2019 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barbara and seconded by Maryanne and Aki.
- Public Comments – a comment was made by Irene Lane, representative of the Climate and Environment Committee's subcommittee on single-use plastics. The group is exploring what happens when our recycling is picked up, educating residents about recycling numbers, and reviewing the use of plastics at Town events. Betsy Johnson and Thornton Mattheson are the co-chairs. Aki volunteered to work with the subcommittee as the liaison from the Community Relations Committee.

Old Business

Events and Community Service:

- Warm Clothing Drive – Wicca reported on behalf of Marjorie that fifteen very large bags of donations of warm winter clothing were collected and given to Interfaith Works to distribute to those in need.
- Knitting Group – Wicca reported on behalf of Marjorie that 3 people attended the last event. Marjorie will evaluate whether it works for the group to continue meeting going forward.
- Chili Dinner – The event was held on February 10 and went well. 175 people RSVP'd, and all the food was eaten. The musician who had been booked was sick and could not attend. We were able to find another musician, Richard English, on short notice. Richard performed blues and was well received. We will ensure that compostable materials are used going forward. A total of close to \$1,200 was donated. The Centennial Committee connection went well, and the cupcakes were very popular. Some residents signed up for the Progressive Dinner during the event.
- Progressive Dinner – Cathy reported that she and Michele met today and plans for the Progressive Dinner are coming together. We have enough dinner and dessert volunteers. A few people have said they will host. The deadline for signing up is March 29. The Committee discussed how to advertise the event given the publication date of the next Forecast. We will proceed with publicity and will make clear that not everyone needs to host or cook. The Committee also discussed food and beverage items that could be provided to the host sites to streamline logistics. We haven't had any requests for vegetarian meals so far. The Centennial Committee is happy to host the opening reception and is considering plans. The reception is tentatively scheduled for 6:15 to 7:15.
- Cooking Contest – We will be hosting an event focused on breads on Sunday, March 10 from 3-4:30. Two judges have been recruited, and gift certificates to their bakeries will be awarded as prizes. We have 7 entrants so far. The Committee discussed a potential cookbook exchange as part of the event. Barbara, Shelia, and Cathy volunteered to help. The Committee discussed beverages and logistics of the event. Ed Mahoney donated bread pans for the winners.
- Discussions and Desserts – Marc Howard will speak on Thursday, March 14 on the topic of the criminal justice system & prison reform. The event was advertised in the Forecast. Maryanne and Anne volunteered to help with the event. Aki will introduce the speaker at the event.
- Rye Tasting – Wicca reported that she spoke with the person who hosted the wine tasting and picked out 7 ryes for tasting in a variety of price points. The vendor will also provide a variety of cheeses and baguettes. The event, on March 24, will be a blind tasting. The event is almost full. Cathy, Barbara, Aki, and Wicca will work the event.
- Spring Festival – The event held in conjunction with the Lawton Center, featuring music and a moon bounce, as well as other entertainment, will be in June. A volunteer will be needed to line up food trucks.

- Rockville Concert Band – Julie reported that she has spoken with Holy Crepes about providing food for the event. Julie will contact Emily in the Town office to plan logistics. The Band will play outside the Town Hall. The Rockville Concert Band is a nonprofit organization made up of 70 volunteer musicians, some who live in the Town, who rehearse weekly throughout the year.
- Magic Show – Emily and Wicca reported that we had a full house, about 95 attendees. The magician, Michael Chamberlin, put on a great show. Wine for the parents was appreciated. We composted and recycled at the event.

Communications:

- Welcome Bags – The materials for new bags have been ordered. We had previously discussed having bags in the office, but that could be logistically challenging. Emily could let us know who picks up from the office.
- “Stay Tuned” flyer – Wicca will coordinate with Julia on moving this project forward.

New Business

Events and Community Service:

- Seriously Fun Singers – Barbara reported that the event, featuring a choral singing group with a strong Town connection, is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 from 4-6 p.m. The room has been reserved. Wine and savory snacks will be provided. Barbara will send a write up about the event to Wicca. Barbara and Shelia will be available to help with the event, and other volunteers will be determined at the next meeting.
- Bluegrass Band – Wicca reported that Jim Mich’s band, which includes other Town residents, is available to perform. The Committee discussed dates in May.
- July 4 Event – We need to find someone to handle trash and recycling. Aki will coordinate with others. He is also working with Monique Shimm on vegan options.

Communications:

- Event Survey Forms – Quynh reworked the event surveys and sent the revised form to the Committee in advance of the meeting. Wicca discussed her feedback on the form.

Other Business

- Wicca reported that Avery Gillette and Nazali Chaudhry have resigned from the Committee.
- Wicca discussed that a co-chair is still needed. She will remain the liaison to the Town Council. Ideally, two people would volunteer and could share the job.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Cathy and Shelia moved to adjourn the meeting, and Aki seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Helms Williams