

**Community Relations Committee  
MINUTES  
February 4, 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, Aki Peritz, Julie Trocchio, Barbara Rose, Kathie Legg, Loretta Sevier, and Jean Carlson.

After the motion for approval was moved and seconded, the minutes from the January 7 meeting were unanimously approved.

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

- Winter Outwear Clothing Drive: Ann Wild reported that the clothing drive was a huge success. [Update: From November through the end of January, Town staff made 10 trips to Bethesda Cares and Interfaith Works, carrying four full bins of donations each trip.] Extending the drive through January worked well. Way to go, Town of Chevy Chase!
- Movie Nights for Grown-Ups: The showing of *Finding Vivian Maier* on Friday, January 15, at 7:30 PM was a terrific event. About 50 people attended to watch the astonishing story of a nanny who was also a great photographer. Suggestion slips were put on chairs, and about 15 were returned, indicating people enjoyed the film and would like to see other documentaries. Recommendation for next time: Stagger the chairs for better viewing.

The second Movie Night for Grown-Ups this year will be held on Friday, March 4, at 7 PM. It will feature the movie *The United Nations: Last Station Before Hell* about the work of the UN Peacekeepers to be followed by a talk by Town resident Lise Morje Howard, who served as an academic advisor on the film. The event will include wine and desserts. Volunteers include Aki Peritz, Bridget Hartman, Wicca Davidson, Julie Stanish, and Lorraine Rendleman.

- Movie Night for Families: The movie *Up* on Friday, January 8, was Up!! Jean Carlson and Bob Lyford reported that about 80–85 adults and children attended. The event survey suggestion box did not work at this event because families left quickly before completing the survey. The Friday, February 12, movie will be *Finding Nemo*. Beginning in February, this event will start promptly at 5:45 PM, instead of 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.
- Re-Gifting Event: Scheduled for Sunday, January 24, this event had to be cancelled because of snow.
- Magic Show: The Michael Chamberlain Magic Show will be held Friday, February 5, at 6 PM. We have 85 RSVPs. Pizza and beverages will be served. Volunteers: Julie Trocchio, Bridget Hartman, Bob Lyford, and Erin Kopelman.

- 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. Aki asked the Committee members for suggestions on what they would like to hear. Members suggested he address the following: whether ISIS is weakening, the destruction of treasures, and what the Presidential candidates are saying. Volunteers include Loretta Sevier, Lorraine Rendleman, and Wicca Davidson.
- Town Chili Dinner: The Town Chili Dinner with ice cream sundae bar will be held at the Chevy Chase Elementary School on Sunday, February 21, from 5:30–7 PM. Bridget Hartman will get ice cream that day. RSVPs are required. Donations will go to the Manna Food Center to help meet the needs of County residents who experience hunger and food insecurity. Kathie Legg suggested asking the vendor not to use Styrofoam; she will follow up with Town staff member Kim Waiyaboon, who helps coordinate Town events, on the possible use of paper plates. Barbara Rose, Bob Lyford, Lorraine Rendleman, Erin Kopelman, Bridget Hartman, Wicca Davidson, and Ann Wild volunteered to help run the event. Kim and Bridget Hartman will coordinate.
- Town Centennial: No apparent progress on asking the Town Council to approve and appoint a special Town Centennial Committee has been made to date. The Town Manager suggested to Wicca Davidson that she contact Council members to get the project started.
- Soup's On!: As an alternative to the Bake-Off of previous years, the Committee is planning a soup cooking contest on Sunday, March 13. Contestants should bring their soups in crock pots, though we need to check if the wiring in the room can accommodate this. Wicca Davidson has secured two judges (Aviva Goldfarb, CEO of the Six O'Clock Scramble, and Donna Henry, Chef and Owner of Soup Up) who will bring prizes. The Committee recommends that while judges can promote their work, they should not sell any books. Wicca will spearhead the event.

### **Old Business—Communications:**

- Discussion on Communications with Aaron Presnall: The Committee reviewed a list of possible outcomes/activities from our discussion last month with Aaron Presnall. To follow up, the Committee formed a subcommittee to brainstorm and prioritize the list (Kathie Legg, Julie Stanish, Loretta Sevier, and Barbara Rose). The subcommittee will report back next month.
- Suggestion Box at Events: Brief event survey sheets, which include an invitation to receive the Town Crier, are now placed at every event, except Family Movie Nights, on each chair/table for the Committee to gain feedback on events.

### **New Business—Events:**

- Progressive Dinner and/or Garden Tour: The Committee decided that this year we will sponsor a progressive dinner rather than a garden tour, which may be held next year. It was noted that these are both detail-oriented events that take at least two months to

prepare for—but worth the effort because they are so popular. The dinner will be held May 7. We need to ask for hosts and chefs and have at least a month for RSVPs, so notice must go into the next Town Crier. Bridget Hartman, who has coordinated previous dinners but has a work conflict, will give volunteers help in how to plan the event. Volunteers to work on this include Kathie Legg, Loretta Sevier, and Julie Trocchio.

- Spring Festival: On April 30, 1–4 PM, the Leland Center will again hold a festival that will include face painting and a moon bounce. We were asked to get a band (recommend the BCC Jazz Band) and three food trucks. Bridget Hartman will contact the Jazz Band.
- Discussion and Desserts/Future Events: Possible events and speakers were suggested. We will do some research and discuss at the next meeting.

### **New Business—Communications:**

- Welcome Package: The Committee decided to form a second subcommittee, this one to brainstorm a welcome package/activities for new residents. Volunteers included Bridget Hartman, Bob Lyford, Ann Wild, Kathie Legg, Jean Carlson, Barbara Rose, and Lorraine Rendleman. They will report back at the next meeting.
- Possible New Residents Welcoming Party: It was suggested that we hold a welcoming party for new residents and that they get on the list for the Town Crier and receive a welcome package.

### **Other Business:**

- Member Resignation: Alex Okuliar contacted Wicca Davidson to say his family is moving out of the town, and he will no longer be able to serve on the Committee.
- BINGO Suggestion: A new resident suggested holding a family night with BINGO. The Committee liked the idea and recommended this be a summer event with all ages invited.
- Budget Issue: The Committee discussed an item in the *Forecast* reporting that budget cuts may be necessary as early as this year. We considered a resolution drafted by Ann Wild for the Town Council describing the important role of events in building a sense of community and urging that these not be cut. It was noted that the cost of Town events is always significantly less than what is budgeted. The Committee agreed that Ann and Wicca will develop a statement for testimony at the Council meeting on behalf of the Committee regarding the importance of Town events. [Update: Wicca prepared a very moving testimony, which she presented at the February Town Council meeting.]
- Fourth of July: It is not too early to start planning. Will discuss next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Trocchio