

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM in the Town Hall.

Members present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Bob Lyford, Julie Stanish, Lorraine Rendleman, Aki Peritz, Julie Trocchio, Barbara Rose, Kathie Legg, Jean Carlson, Chris Files, and Erin Kopelman.

The minutes from the March 3 meeting were amended to show that Lorraine had not volunteered for soup event. Motion to pass as amended was made by Barbara Rose, and seconded by Julie Stanish. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business—Events/Community Service:

- Movie Night for Families – Lorraine reported that the showing of *The Good Dinosaur* on Friday, March 11, was a great success with over 60 attendees; 10 boxes of pizza; and lots of popcorn, goldfish, and animal crackers. As always, parents helped to put away chairs and clean up. There was discussion that the movie was frightening for very young children, and we should consider adding the following tag for movie night listings: “Parents are encouraged to check online for age-appropriateness of movies.”
- UN Peacekeeper Movie and Discussion – Aki Peritz reported that over 30 people attended the movie *The United Nations: Last Station Before Hell* and follow-up lecture on Friday, March 4. The event received overwhelmingly positive comments. Some attendees had trouble reading the video’s subtitles and hearing the dialogue. Recommendation: Put speakers on chairs and see if screen could be permanently raised.
- Soup’s On! – Wicca Davidson reported that this event on Sunday, March 13, was very successful with a full room of chefs and tasters. Twelve soups were entered, including some by young chefs. The judges, who did a great job, awarded one first and two second prizes, while those attending voted on the “Peoples’ Choice” prize. A review of comments submitted included: Do more events such as this, have larger tasting bowls, and consider a pasta challenge. The committee thanked Wicca for all her work on this.
- Spring Festival with Lawton Center – Bridget Hartman sent a report saying that the Spring Festival, scheduled for Saturday, April 30, from Noon–4PM, is shaping up to be a great intergenerational event for the community. It is being well promoted, including a terrific flyer produced by the Lawton Center staff. There will be two food trucks serving lunch on Willow Lane, and the B-CC Jazz Combo will play outside between the Town Hall and Lawton Center. Anne Herring’s art work will be displayed (and offered for sale to support art camps through the YMCA for underprivileged children), and a community mural art project will be set up in the Town Hall. Tables will be set up outside on the circle for people to eat. For children, there will be a moon bounce and carnival games, popcorn, and sno-cones. From 2:30–4 PM there will be Town Hall presentations from

experts on organization and de-cluttering, estate planning, money management, and aging in place. Jean Carlson, Bob Lyford, and Wicca Davidson volunteered to help.

- Progressive Dinner – Despite several requests for volunteer hosts, only five people have stepped up. Therefore, the Committee decided to postpone this event until next fall, tentatively set for Saturday, October 22. Volunteers for this event include Kathie Legg and Loretta Sevier, who will both coordinate, with help from Chis Files and Julie Trocchio.
- Lulu’s Fate Concert – Erin Kopelman reported this concert is all set for Friday, April 8. The band will play two sets. Volunteers will set up food (as opposed to putting out prepared trays). Erin will be bringing friend and family volunteers. Wicca Davidson will arrive at 6 PM to open up. Other volunteers are needed at 6:45 or 7 PM. Loretta Sevier, her friend Yang Liu, Julie T, Erin, Erin’s parents, and Wicca are working on the event.
- Movie Night for Grown-Ups – On Friday, April 1, about 25 residents attended *A Ballerina’s Tale*, a 2015 film about Misty Copeland, the first African-American prima ballerina to become the principal dancer of any ballet company in the world. The lower-than-usual attendance was thought to have been caused by schools having spring break. The Committee realized that in the future it must avoid scheduling movies during this time period. Although the movie was a bit long, the food was great! One commenter suggested the movie, *Seymour, An Introduction*. Wicca Davidson, Loretta Sevier, her friend Yang Liu, and Lorraine Rendleman volunteered to run the event.
- Play Date in the Park – Kathie Legg and Erin Kopelman are planning this event for Saturday morning, June 11. Kathie will talk with Kim Waiyaboon about ordering food.
- 2018 Town Centennial – Al Lang has agreed to ask the Town Council to establish a special TOCC committee and to put out a call for volunteers to start planning for this event. The Committee discussed that while it is early to plan logistics, some activities, such as getting oral histories or revising the Town history, could be time consuming, so this is good time to start planning.

Old Business—Communications:

- Analyzing and Prioritizing Communications Report – The Sub-Committee of Kathie Legg, Julie Stanish, Loretta Sevier, Wicca Davidson, and Barbara Rose has not yet met. It was suggested that this group needs a chairperson for this effort and, until one is named, Chris Files was asked by Wicca to bring the group together, and she agreed. The Committee will ask Todd Hoffman and Kim Waiyaboon to consult with the group and to clarify what is and is not permitted/possible in changing our Facebook page and website. Barbara Rose will develop “dot points” for discussion, such as Facebook and website improvements and other communications strategies.
- Welcome Package Report – Several of the members of this Sub-Committee of Bridget Hartman, Bob Lyford, Ann Wild, Kathie Legg, Jean Carlson, Barbara Rose, Wicca Davidson, and Lorraine Rendleman met and recommended bringing back a Welcome

Package that could include a tote bag with a welcome letter from the Mayor, a letter from the Sub-Committee and the Community Relations Committee about events and other information, back issues of the *Forecast*, a Town Directory, information about restaurants and hotels, as well as possibly items contributed by local businesses. Recommendations: Order tote bags now during this fiscal year and start the program in the fall, highlight events in Town listings with a note that says “Great Opportunity for Newcomers!” In addition, the Town website should have a button with information for newcomers.

New Business—Events

- July 4 Parade and Picnic – Although Aki Peritz has coordinated this event in the past, this year he will possibly be out of the area during the time leading up to the 4th. Therefore, we may need new leadership. Aki will develop a “to-do” list of what needs to be done. Several Committee members will take responsibility for various jobs. Recommendation: Have the reading of “Declaration of Independence” later in day, not at the start.
- Summer Concert with Food Trucks – Julie Stanish is still exploring possible dates with her Rockville Concert Band, possibly May 15 or 22 or in June or late July. She will let Wicca Davidson know the date the band can do the concert in time for the *Forecast* article due in April.
- Round House Theatre – Jean Carlson suggested hosting a night at Round House Theatre June 9 or 16 (both Thursdays) to see *The Who & the What*, a comedy about race and identity. For a review, see http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/17/theater/the-who-the-what-examines-faith-and-family.html?_r=0. Jean will get the date to Wicca Davidson by the time the *Forecast* article is due in April.
- Rising Kindergarten/Primary School Play Date – Wicca Davidson reported for Bridget Hartman that Amy Carpenter will plan and run this event for parents and children in grades K–2 at 9 AM on Saturday, August 27.
- Discussion and Desserts – Since she is teaching this semester, Susan Goodman has requested that her presentation on genealogy be held in October (date to be decided).
- Hike in Rock Creek Park – Bridget Hartman has contacted Melanie Choukas-Bradley, who has agreed to conduct a hike in Rock Creek Park on the afternoon of Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, when schools get an early release and many adults will be off from work.
- Future Events – The Committee discussed possible future events to be decided later.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:22 PM following a motion by Aki Peritz and seconded by Lorraine Rendleman.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Trocchio