

Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
May 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Town Hall.

Members present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Bob Lyford, Julie Stanish, Loretta Sevier, Aki Peritz, Julie Trocchio, Barbara Rose, Kathie Legg, Erin Kopelman, and Ann Wild

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 7 meeting was made by Barbara Rose and seconded by Erin Kopelman. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business—Events/Community Service:

- Lulu's Fate Concert – The Lulu's Fate concert played to a packed audience of about 60 residents on Friday, April 8. The trio, playing Americana music on electric cello, violin, guitar, and mandolin along with harmonizing vocals, offered two full sets. Wine and savories were appreciated.
- Spring Festival with Lawton Center – Wicca Davidson shared Bridget Hartman's detailed report of the Saturday, April 30, event. Despite cloudy skies and chilly weather, the event drew people of all ages from the Town and the B-CC community at large. A steady crowd filled eight lunch tables from noon to 2 PM from the Holy Crepes and Curley Q's BBQ food trucks parked on Willow. The B-CC Jazz Combo performed nearby during lunchtime. A table for Chevy Chase@ Home (later moved inside for the presentations) as well as an art table sat outside the Town Hall. A small moon bounce outside was packed with young children. Town resident and Wonders teacher Jill Henderer set up a face painting table nearby. Inside the Lawton Center there was also a large moon bounce, a photo booth, and a caricaturist, all very popular. Inside the Town Hall, Montgomery County Recreation Department's senior coordinator organized several Active 55+ Lifestyle presentations from 2:30 to 4 PM. Also inside the Town Hall for viewing and purchase were six large panels of art by Anne Herring, a long-time Town resident. This drew a modest number of visitors. The unsold art continued to hang through the Wine and Welcome Event. Proceeds were donated to allow children from Title I schools to enjoy YMCA summer art camps. Many hoped this community-wide event, in which the Town and the Lawton Center combined forces, would be repeated. Special thanks go to Lawton Center director Jordon Henson, Katie Vita, Georgia Guhin, Bob Lyford, Jean Carlson, Wicca Davidson, and Kim Waiyaboon.
- Progressive Dinner – Although the dinner had previously been rescheduled for October 22, further discussion was postponed to a future meeting.
- Play Date in the Park – Kathie Legg is planning this event for Saturday, June 11.
- Round House Theatre – Jean Carlson is coordinating attendance at *The Who & the What*, a comedy about race and identity on Thursday, June 9, at Round House. For a review, see http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/17/theater/the-who-the-what-examines-faith-and-family.html?_r=0. Twenty-five tickets for a reduced price of \$30 are available by contacting the Town Office.

- July 4 Parade and Picnic – Aki Peritz has developed a “to do” check list. Kim Waiyaboon has already done a great deal of organizing for the event. Loretta Sevier will coordinate the international student volunteers. The Town Crier will ask for volunteers to read the Declaration of Independence.
- Summer Concert/Food Trucks – Julie Stanish reported that the Rockville Concert Band could either hold the concert on Sunday, June 19, or Sunday, July 17. Committee members thought that June date of Father’s Day was not a good choice because fewer people would attend and that the July date might be too close to the July 4 event. Julie will check with the band for later dates, perhaps in October. The schedule would be: 6 PM - food trucks, 7 PM - band.
- 2018 Town Centennial Committee – The Committee will talk with our new Town Council liaison to request the Town Council in the fall to set up this Special Committee.

Old Business—Communications:

- Analyzing and Prioritizing Communications Sub-Committee Report – Sub-Committee members Kathie Legg, Chris Files, and Wicca Davidson met with Todd Hoffman and Kim Waiyaboon about Town communications issues. While the basic format of the Town website is set by a standardized format used by many towns, some buttons can be modified, such as Residents Corner, or in other ways, as suggested by the Committee. In addition, photos can be added to the Facebook page. However, a waiver form must be signed by anyone appearing in a photo before any photos of individuals may be posted. It was noted that there are ample methods of communication available now in the Town. The job is to help people find this information.
- Welcome Package Sub-Committee Report – Wicca reported that Town staff will order 500 canvas tote bags with the Town logo. Suggested items to be included are a letter from the Community Relations Committee about events and other information, including a link for more information on the Town website; back issues of the *Forecast*; a Town directory; emergency preparedness information; information about restaurants and hotels; and possibly items contributed by local businesses.

New Business—Events:

- Wine and Welcome – On Friday, May 20, this event will involve a blind wine tasting led by a wine expert from Calvert Woodley Wines and Spirits. Tasters will be asked to rate the level of each wine’s price as well as which ones they prefer. We will reach out to both new and long-standing residents to attend. Prizes for tasting winners and for the longest and most recent resident will be awarded. Wicca Davidson is coordinating the event with help that night by various Committee members.
- Future Committee Meetings – The Committee decided that since all events will have occurred before the scheduled July 7 meeting, the Committee will not meet in July and, as usual, will not meet in August.

- Laser Tag – The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the appropriateness of a Town-sponsored laser tag game. It was decided not to pursue this activity, but there was agreement that we should hold events for the teenage group that might be attracted to laser tag. Some suggestions included cooking classes and a rock and roll band with opportunity to try instruments. Committee members were asked to talk with young people in the neighborhood about what activities they might suggest.

New Business—Communications:

- Neighborhood Watch – Wicca Davidson was contacted by the Public Services Committee to discuss their suggestion that the Neighborhood Watch program, which has been part of Community Relations, instead be added to their responsibilities because their mission statement includes public safety. This idea was unanimously approved by our Committee. Communications, on the other hand, will remain under the mission of the Community Relations Committee.

New Business—Other:

- Town Crier Sign-Up/Event Evaluation – Wicca Davidson has developed a new Town Crier sign-up sheet and revised the event evaluation form to include questions about how participants learned about the event, along with an opportunity to sign up for the Town Crier.
- Block Party Allotment – Kathie Legg was asked by someone at an event to increase the financial allotment for block parties. This issue will be discussed later.
- Proposed Town Finance Committee – Bob Lyford suggested the Town form a Finance Committee to avoid some of the controversies that have occurred over how the Town spends money. Our Committee will suggest this to our new liaison to the Town Council.
- Kim’s Birthday – Wicca Davidson had delivered a birthday cake for Kim Waiyaboon on behalf of the Committee. She also wrote to Todd Hoffman saying what an outstanding job Kim is doing for the Committee. Committee members reimbursed Wicca for the cake.
- Discussion and Deserts – Bob Lyford suggested a fall event about politics. Possible topics included the Electoral College or another non-partisan topic. Ann Wild will check with a possible presenter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM by a motion of Julie Trocchio, a second by Barbara Rose, and unanimous approval of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Trocchio

Minutes edited by Ann Wild