

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

1 February 2018

7:00 PM – Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Members present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Robert Lyford, Barbara Rose, Cathy Slesinger, Julie Stanish, Julie Trocchio, Ann Wild, Mary Flynn (Liaison)

The January meeting was not held due to inclement weather, and as such no minutes were presented. There were no public comments offered.

OLD BUSINESS—Events and Community Service

- Town Authors Event (Book Fair): Bob Lyford reported that limited progress had been made with the plans for this event. To date, only a few town authors had volunteered to be part of the event. The Committee agreed to continue seeking authors and to check at additional venues such as Brookville Pharmacy. The event has already been publicized in the Forecast, Town Crier and our Facebook Page.
- Winter Clothing Drive: Ann Wild reported on the annual drive to collect gently used cold weather clothing and accessories. Six trips have been made and 30 bags worth of clothing have been taken to Bethesda Cares (clothing for men) and Interfaith Works (clothing for women and children). Boxes for donations are available in both the Town Hall and the Lawton Center. The drive will run through the end of February 2018.
- Bourbon Tasting: Wicca Davidson reported on the event. At least forty people were in attendance. The event was successful and gathered some newcomers to CRC events. Lessons learned included that we did not need as many types of bourbon (12) and that we needed to be extremely precise about conveying our budget requirements to the presenter.
- Discussions & Desserts: Bob Lyford was in contact with a Town resident and an investigative reporter who agreed to speak at a Discussions & Desserts event but is having back surgery and will not be available in the near term. Julie Standish had previously suggested inviting a Town resident who is a musician with the Navy Band to speak about his career and current position. She indicated that he is interested and available. The Committee is exploring a date for March.
- Seriously Fun Singers (SFS): Barbara Rose reported that the SFS concert is scheduled for Sunday, February 11, from 4 to 6 PM. Julie Stanish, Wicca Davidson and Cathy Slesinger agreed to help with set up and refreshments. Fifty four people have indicated that they will attend.

- Panel on Addiction: Wicca Davidson reported on the status of a request to the Community Relations Committee by Town residents Barney Rush and Chris Files to help organize a panel discussion, followed by a question and answer session on the effects of addiction on families. Four speakers have been identified. The event is scheduled for April 8 at 4 pm. We need volunteers to help with this event.
- Holiday Gift Drive: Ann Wild reported that the gift drive benefiting victims of domestic violence and their children through the Montgomery County Family Justice Center received total donations of \$4,315 in gift cards and checks. Seven town families adopted families in need to give specific gifts. This was the highest amount raised by the Town for this yearly drive. The Town received a large thank you card from the children who benefited from the drive which is on display in the Town Office.
- Family Movie Night – Moana Jan 5: Bob Lyford and Julie Troccio reported that more than 50 adults and children attended the movie *Moana*. While all seem to enjoy themselves, our members thought the movie might have been a bit too long. Notwithstanding, those attending seem appreciative and were very helpful.
- Chili Dinner: Wicca Davidson reported on the Chili Dinner scheduled for February 25. There are 9 volunteers from the Committee. Logan Hoffman, of the Town staff, will be there to assist. A musician will attend and play a range of music

OLD BUSINESS-- Communications

- Welcome Package Distribution: Cathy Slesinger reported that a list of items for the 2018 welcome bags has been completed, and that Town staff will begin ordering and assembling the bags. Mary Flynn will draft a letter of introduction, and inserts from last year are in the process of being updated. A late spring delivery is anticipated for our town's newcomers.
- "Closed" Facebook Page for Town: Wicca Davidson reported that 130 individuals have joined the page and that postings are increasing.

NEW BUSINESS--Events/Community Service

- Family Movie Night – Feb 2: *Bears*, a documentary film by Disney is the last family movie night for the year. Lindsay Greenfield and Wicca Davidson have volunteered to work the event.

- Magician – March 2: Michael Chamberlain, who has performed for the Town many times, will finish out our Winter season of events for families with young people. We still need volunteers to help run the event.
- Planning Discussion for Future Events: Several ideas were discussed including a Pie Contest (Barbara Rose indicated that she would help identify judges) and a game night suggested by Mary Flynn entitled Bonko and Beer. May dates for each of these events are being considered.
- Spring Festival in conjunction with the Lawton Center: Wicca Davidson was contacted by the Director of the Lawton Center regarding this Spring event we have co-sponsored the last few years. The Committee agreed to move forward as we have done before. Wicca will find out the date of the Festival and bring that information to the next meeting.
- Progressive Dinner – There was a brief discussion and all agreed that this was too much of an effort to effectively plan at the current time.

NEW BUSINESS—Communications

- New Town Website: Wicca Davidson informed the Committee that the Town website has been redone, and is much more user-friendly.
- Committee Description: The current text describing the Community Relations Committee was provided and discussed. It was agreed by all that the mission statement needed some revision and Ann Wild agreed to edit the text with member input. We will discuss the revised statement at our March meeting, and if approved, ask our Liaison to bring the new statement to the Town Council for approval.
- Planning Discussion for Future

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Slesinger