

Community Relations Committee Meeting

February 6, 2019

7:00 p.m. – Town Hall

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

Members Present: Wicca Davidson (Acting Chair), Julie Stanish, Maryanne Courtney, Marjorie Shaw, Michele Marston, Emily Helms Williams, Barbara Rose, Julia Bellinger, Anne deFontnouvelle, Cathy Wolf, Quynh Tran, Aki Peritz, Avery Gillett

General Business

- The minutes of the January 2019 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barbara and seconded by Maryanne.
- The Committee discussed food options offered at Town events and soliciting new members to participate on the Committee.

Old Business

Events and Community Service:

- Warm Clothing Drive – Marjorie reported that thirteen bags have been collected so far and delivered to Interfaith Works. The clothing drive lasts through the end of February.
- Knitting Group – Marjorie reported that 12 people volunteered for the knitting circle, and 5 attended the event. The group's first meeting went well. A second meeting is being planned and will be announced on the listserv.
- Discussions and Desserts – Julie reported that Doug Kammerer was the featured speaker on January 10, and David Ziegele provided music. The event was well attended, and the discussion was interesting. The audience was very engaged. We were also able to promote the Progressive Dinner at the event.
- Rockville Band – Julie reported that the event will be held on June 9. The band will perform in the early evening. Julie volunteered to contact food trucks for the event. We will need volunteers for the event.
- Family Movie Night – Emily reported that there were about 40 attendees at the January event, where we screened the movie Monsters, Inc. The February movie night was canceled due to inclement weather.
- Progressive Dinner – Cathy reported that plans for the Progressive Dinner are coming together. We plan to promote the event at the Chili Dinner. About 8 people have volunteered to host. At the last Progressive Dinner, we had about 130 people. The Centennial Committee will host the reception to kick off the event. The Committee discussed vegetarian options.
- Rye Tasting – Quynh reported that she has been in discussion with potential stores and experts who could lead an event. The Committee discussed budget, logistics, potential dates. Considerations for selecting the vendor include whether it could provide food as well.
- Chili Dinner – The Town's annual Chili Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 10. Committee members have volunteered to staff the event. The musician who performed at last year's event will provide entertainment. The Centennial Committee will provide cupcakes and assemble a time capsule. Wicca will handle the logistics for Manna donations and a microphone for announcements. Avery volunteered to stay until the end and make sure the cleanup is completed. About 150 people have RSVP'd. The Committee discussed the possibility of moving the event to the Lawton Center in future years due to a smaller number of attendees.
- Cooking Contest – We will be hosting an event focused on breads on Sunday, March 10. One judge has been recruited; one is still needed. The Committee discussed a potential cookbook exchange as part of the event.
- Spring Festival – The Committee discussed potential dates in early June for the Spring Festival, in coordination with the Lawton Center. Our biggest part has been organizing food trucks.

Communications:

- Welcome Bags – Michele reported that about 30 bags have been delivered. Materials are being prepared for the next set of bags. The Committee discussed keeping a supply of bags at the Town Hall.
- “Stay Tuned” flyer – Julia will head up this project and will coordinate with Wicca on details. Wicca needs details on events for the Forecast by the 15th and will send details to Julia.

New Business

Events and Community Service:

- Family Event Night – In lieu of a Family Movie Night, we will hold an event with a magician on March 1. Wicca will coordinate with the magician, and Emily, Avery, and Anne will assist with the event.
- Discussions and Desserts – Aki reported that Professor Marc Howard is available to speak on prison reform. The Committee discussed potential dates.
- Seriously Fun Singers – Barbara raised the possibility of an event with this group in the spring. She will explore dates.

Communications:

- Event Survey Forms – Quynh has reworked the event surveys and will send to the Committee for discussion at a future meeting. The Committee also discussed an electronic survey option.

Other Business

- Wicca discussed that a co-chair is needed. She will remain the liaison to the Town Council. Ideally, two people would volunteer and could share the job.
- The Committee discussed procedures and interactions between members of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Wicca adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Helms Williams