

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

1 March 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, Lindsay Greenfield, Julie Stanish, Julie Trocchio, Ann Wild, Mary Flynn (Liaison) and new member, Maryanne Courtney.

The February minutes were approved with a change offered by Ann Wild.

There were no public comments offered.

OLD BUSINESS—Events and Community Service

- Town Authors Event (Book Fair): Bob Lyford reported that this event was postponed indefinitely. Bob said he would look into the four individuals who responded to learn more about them and their books to determine if they might be appropriate for a Discussions and Desserts event.
- Winter Clothing Drive: Ann Wild reported on the annual drive to collect gently used cold weather clothing and accessories. Thirty five bags of clothing were collected; all donations went to Interfaith Works. The drive ran from November 2017 through February 2018.
- Family Movie Night - Bears: Wicca Davidson and Lindsey Greenfield reported that the Family Movie Night featuring Bears, a documentary film by Disney, was held on February 2 and was well attended and enjoyed by all.
- Seriously Fun Singers (SFS): Barbara Rose reported that this event was held on February 11 from 4-6 pm. It was well attended by more than forty people but not by as many people who had RSVP'd. It was the first show for SFS in a public forum, and as reported previously, many of those in the singing group are town members. The format of light snacks and wine before, during the intermission and following the performance allowed for nice conversation amongst the singers and audience.
- Magic Show: Wicca Davidson reported on the status of the upcoming Magic Show. Michael Chamberlain, who has performed for the Town many times, will finish out our winter season of events for families with young people on March 2. Julie Trocchio and Lindsey Greenfield agreed to help staff the event.

- Discussions & Desserts: Julie Stanish provided an update on the upcoming event on March 8. Jeremy Eig is a musician with the Navy Band and he will speak about his career and current position.
- Bunco & Beer: Mary Flynn and Wicca Davidson will lead this event scheduled for March 16 in the Town Center. Julie Stanish, Wicca Davidson, and Maryanne Courtney said that they would both attend and support the event. Mary volunteered to guide the group with instructions. Snacks and beer will be provided.
- 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. There was significant discussion on the title of the event.
- Spring Festival in conjunction with the Lawton Center: The Town has cosponsored this event with the Lawton Center the last few years. It has been held in the spring, but this year, it is being moved to the fall, Saturday, September 15. Volunteers are requested to assist, particularly in arranging for food trucks.
- Chili Dinner: Bob Lyford reported on the Chili Dinner held on February 25 and indicated that it was a big success; all attending seem to enjoy it. Committee members in attendance indicated that Logan Hoffman had been extremely helpful in his support. And while some complained about the musician and the fact that his music was at times too loud, several parents who lived in Town reported that the children seemed to enjoy the entertainment. Ann Wild stated that contributions collected at the dinner totaled \$1,255 for the Manna Food Drive.
- Pie Baking Contest: Barbara Rose reported that plans were underway to secure judges for the pie contest now scheduled for Sunday, April 15.

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 had begun ordering and assembling the bags. Mary Flynn has edited 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.

NEW BUSINESS--Events/Community Service

- Planning Discussion for Future Events: Wicca Davidson indicated that there are very few dates available for the balance of the spring to hold events at the Town Center. She saved June 1 in case the CRC chooses to schedule an event that night. A Wine and Cheese Welcome event for new residents was discussed as a possibility. Other future events included topics for Discussion and Desserts were discussed. A couple of speakers were suggested as was the topic of cybersecurity. In addition an event for rising kindergarteners was recommended as it has been done quite successfully in the past. A volunteer is required to organize this event. (Normally this is held the weekend before school starts, which this year is a holiday weekend.)
- Town Centennial Celebration: Barbara Rose, as a liaison for the newly established Town Centennial Committee, reported on the results of its initial planning meeting including developing a logo, plans to conduct oral histories, using the Forecast and our Facebook page to share history about the town, and a launch of events throughout the year with its initial event being a spring tour of Town gardens -“Digging into the New Century” that will close with a gathering at the Town Center to kick off the yearlong celebration.

NEW BUSINESS—Communications

- Mission Statement/Committee Description: Wicca Davidson read the revised CRC Mission Statement as edited by Ann Wild and reviewed by committee members. It was approved and will be sent to Mary Flynn for approval by the Town Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Wicca Davidson shared that Ann Wild was resigning from the committee after nine and a half years of very active and involved service. Her achievements were celebrated with a festive farewell including a cake brought by Wicca.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Slesinger