

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

2 March 2022

7:00 PM – In-Person, Town Hall

Note: Residents are welcome to attend all Committee meetings.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in person.
- Members Present: Jeremy Eig, Aki Peritz, Amanda Klovers, Anne Blakely, Barbara Rose, Cathy Wolf, Tambra Leonard, Quynh Tran.
- Town Liaison Irene Lane attended.
- February 2022 Meeting Minutes approved and accepted.
- No public comments.

Upcoming Events and New Business

Events/Community Service

- March Events on Schedule
 - Thursday March 10 – Tree Program (Tambra and Quynh)
 - 21 people registered.
 - Slides are being prepared. It will be recorded.
 - Publicity – reminder will be sent out to registrants the day before.
 - This will be by zoom.
 - Monday, March 14 - Book Club, no report.
 - Sunday, March 20 – Spring Coffee Meet-up (Tambra, Quynh)
 - 10 am.
 - We have enough helpers.
 - Cooking during COVID – (Cathy)
 - We only have 5 recipes so far.
 - We could put the recipes on the Town’s website. Maybe people will want to add to it.
- Brainstorming Discussion April, May, and beyond, including:
 - April 24 Cherry Blossom themed Spring Fest (Anne)
 - New development – combined with Lawton Center event
 - County Rec will host indoor events (inflatables, maybe animals, arts and crafts).
 - County will put out marketing too.
 - We will both market with both logos (Town and County).
 - Time shifted: now 12-3.
 - Participation of BCC Band - confirmed 12:30-2:30
 - They’ll be located near sign, where power outlet is outside.
 - Town makes \$300 donation to BCC.
 - Two tables: one for Climate Change Committee, one for CRC.
 - Quynh will sit at our table. She’ll bring calendars with our events and will take addresses for welcome bag delivery.
 - See if the County wants to have a rep at the table as well.
 - We could include Bethesda Urban Partnership info.

- CEC with table or option to hand out flyers/display signs to promote Healthy Lawns and Quiet Landscaping ordinances tailored to our theme.
- Origami – propose to put it inside with other County arts & crafts.
 - How much to pay her? She will include supplies. Ask her what she charges. Decided to budget up to \$250.
 - We could get a volunteer to help – the County can offer SSL hours for volunteers. The Town can't offer the hours.
- Food Trucks – need to pin down. Will have two.
 - Pepe – Jose Andres food truck. We will offer \$500 minimum also to make it even.
 - Big Greek Café might also come. \$500 minimum, probably won't have an issue meeting it.
 - Also maybe – Banyon BBQ.
 - We secured Ben & Jerry's – decided to provide complimentary ice cream. The Town will pay for it. B&J will bill us afterwards based on how much ice cream they distribute.
- Setup and cleanup crew
 - See if the County can offer students to volunteer for SSL hours.
 - See if Boy Scouts can help out. We can give them meal vouchers.
- Access to the Town Hall the day of: Irene will be here.
- Artistic Expression During the Pandemic (Irene)
 - Everyone except for Ronni (the professional artist) is available to display art at the event. She'll help set up though.
- Book Club – April 25 planned.
- Additional April events?
 - We could add a wine tasting.
 - Children's Business Fair (Quynh) – April 3 or 4
 - Funded by Acton Academy – nonprofit that does alternative schooling.
 - Pia did this fair at the shops of Wisconsin last year.
 - Kids sell things at the fair. Open to all of Montgomery County.
 - They want to do their event at the Leland Center this year
 - Pia (16 year old) would be the point person, would plan everything.
 - Publicity – they can post on Facebook and the listserv (without the Town endorsing it).
 - It won't be a CRC-sponsored event.
- Program on Astronomy (Cathy)
 - Possible speaker took a demanding job so he can no longer do this event.
- Possible May program on Aki's book, DISRUPTION
 - Can do the event whenever, except not on Thursdays.

- Discussion and desserts with Aki in person.
 - Thursday May 12 (tentative).
- Possible animal program (Amanda)
 - We decided to move this to the Fall, to spread it out from the spring festival.
- Other event ideas:
 - Maximize in person events before next variant comes.
 - We have a credit with the Great Zucchini (magician) – do it in May. Jeremy will be the point person.
 - Friday night, with pizza, or Saturday afternoon
- July 4 Celebration
 - We need to get permits in place.
 - Use a A Wider Circle to hire people to help out.
 - Arts and Crafts for kids – make a flag.
 - Parade.
 - Raffle?
 - Have the Town Mayor do the concluding event (raffle? Or something else).

OLD BUSINESS

- Events/Community Service
 - Tuesday February 15 – Online Wine Tasting with Amanda Page (Julia)
 - Close to 20 participants.
 - It went well.
 - Thursday, February 24 – Gardening Event with Edamarie Mattei (Cathy)
 - She was very good.
 - It went well.
 - 59 Town residents signed up. Only 10 or 15 people from the Town came. About 35 total came (includes non-residents).
 - Maybe we should remind people the day before, and the day of.
 - Winter Coat Drive (Marjorie)
 - It ended. She will summarize next meeting.
 - Town Teens meet-up (Quynh)
 - No update.
- The Holiday Gift Drive: final update
 - Last year we raised almost \$9000
 - This year we raised almost \$7000
 - The checks weren't cashed for a long time
 - Should we continue this as a fundraiser, given their inconsistent accounting practices?
 - We should obtain an explanation for what went wrong with the checks.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Consider emailing out links to all recorded events**

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: April 6, 2022