

## Community Relations Committee Meeting

March 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom call.

Members Present: Cathy Wolf (Acting Chair), Marjorie Shaw, Aki Peritz, Julie Stanish, Quynh Tran, Julia Bellinger, Emily Helms Williams, Barbara Rose, Maryanne Courtney, Tandra Leonard

Town Council Liaison Present: Barney Rush

Member of the Public Present: Holly Meyers

### General Business

- The minutes of the February 2021 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.
- Holly introduced herself to the Committee. Otherwise there were no public comments.

### Old Business

#### Events and Community Service

- Warm Clothing Drive – Marjorie reported that the Warm Clothing Drive has concluded. Forty to forty-five bags of clothes were donated. Cathy thanked Barney and Marjorie for hosting the drop-off site, and a thank-you note, including to Town employees who have assisted with the event, will be included in the Forecast.
- Discussion and Desserts – Barbara reported on the Murray Horwitz event, which was the Town’s first “Discussion and Desserts” event held virtually. 32 residents signed on to the event, although the total number of attendees was higher since some couples joined together. The event was fun and went well. The group brainstormed other potential speakers, including authors.
- “Eat Chili Day” – In lieu of our annual Chili Dinner, the Committee solicited chili recipes and encouraged donations to Manna. Cathy reported that she compiled the recipes submitted and posted them online. No contributions to Manna were delivered to her residence, but residents may have contributed online.

### Communication

- The group discussed communications by and about the Committee. The group agreed to develop additional communications when a need is observed.

### New Business

#### Events and Community Service

- Great Zucchini Online Event – This online event for children is scheduled for March 20. To date, five residents have RSVP’d. We expect more as the event draws closer.
- Town Book Club – The inaugural meeting of the Town’s book club is scheduled for March 20. Cathy reported that we currently have 13 residents signed up for the meeting. The Committee discussed a 25-person limit on attendees to allow for discussion, but that we might consider being flexible if more sign up. Maryanne agreed to coordinate with the moderator on preparations, and Marjorie, Quynh, and Cathy also agreed to participate.
- The Yard Birds of Chevy Chase Online Event – Barney reported that preparation for the event, scheduled for March 25, is underway. To date, 18 residents have indicated that they are planning to attend.
- Discussion and Desserts – Our second virtual Discussion and Desserts will be a garden talk with Edamarie Mattei of Backyard Bounty on April 8. Tandra reported that she and Cathy met with the speaker to review the logistics of the event and the audience. Ms. Mattei will focus on sustainable gardening practices.

- Sake and Sushi – Julia reported on plans for a sake tasting event with Amanda Page of Magruder’s, scheduled for April 23. Julia is also coordinating with Maki Bar for residents who wish to purchase sushi for the event.
- Future Online Events – Tandra, Quynh, and Cathy reported on ideas and research for potential online events.
- Other Future Events – The group discussed ideas for future events and began the process of planning for the Town’s annual Fourth of July celebration. The Committee discussed how to address uncertainty regarding the status of the pandemic.

Other Business

- The group discussed gathering information on resident engagement on Town committees. The group also discussed logistics for continuing committee work between monthly meetings and managing in-person events, once they are allowed to resume.
- Next meeting: April 7, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Helms Williams