

Community Relations Committee Meeting
November 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. via Zoom call.

Members Present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Anne deFontnouvelle, Julia Bellinger, Aki Peritz, Marjorie Shaw, Quynh Tran, Barbara Rose, Maryanne Courtney, Farrell Rodd, Tandra Leonard, Cathy Wolf, Michele Marston, Emily Helms Williams

Town Council Liaison Present: Barney Rush

General Business

- The minutes of the October 2020 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. Barbara moved to approve the minutes, and Marjorie seconded the motion.
- There were no public comments.

Old Business

Events and Community Service

- Halloween – There were no official Town events for Halloween. Privately-led events went well, and parents were appreciative.
- Charitable Events – The Thanksgiving food drive has concluded, and Quynh and Cathy will proceed with plans for the holiday gift drive. Communications will be prepared based on those used for last year’s event. Cathy reported that the Family Justice Center was pleased that we are organizing the event again.
- Warm Clothing Drive – Marjorie reported that the Warm Clothing Drive is underway. A box is out at her residence, and Town residents have started bringing donations. She will coordinate with the Town office when bags are ready for pick up.
- Memorializing COVID – Barbara and Quynh reported that they have spoken with the Chevy Chase Historical Society (CCHS) regarding its efforts to archive and memorialize information about life during the pandemic. CCHS is organizing a COVID chronicle, where residents submit photos and information about what they have been doing during COVID. Barbara and Quynh presented a number of ways the Town might bolster CCHS’s efforts. CCHS is seeking written pieces for its archives, and there are various ways we can encourage Town residents to participate in that project. We would like to memorialize ways the Town has adapted, particularly with regard to events and holidays, such as graduation, the Fourth of July, and Halloween.
- Ideas for Online Events – Following up on our discussion at the last meeting, Wicca reported on the event ideas that had been submitted in response to the request published in the Town Crier and Forecast. The Committee discussed several event ideas, and committee members will continue exploring feasibility and details of particular events. We don’t yet know when in person events can be resumed. The Committee discussed ideas for possible socially distanced events.

Communications

- Welcome Bags – Michele reported that she, Barbara, and Cathy made about 55 Welcome Bags, about one-half of which have been delivered to date. Extra bags will be at the Town Hall.

New Business

Events and Community Service

- Planning Discussion for Future Events – The group continued brainstorming possible online and in-person events. Several Committee members volunteered to explore planning events.

Communication

- Survey – The group determined that a survey of Town residents is not necessary at this time, since event ideas were received in response to previous announcements, and given limitations in the Committee’s resources to facilitate additional events.

Other Business

- Next meeting: December 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Quynh moved to adjourn the meeting, and Barbara seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Helms Williams