

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
December 2, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Bob Lyford, Julie Stanish, Bridget Hartman, Cathy Wolf, Erin Kopelman, Putnam Ebinger, and Jean Carlson.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010, meeting was offered, and the minutes were approved.

Ann Wild proposed that we no longer host as Town events those music concerts that are attended largely by the families and friends of the performers with little room for Town residents. The Committee agreed.

Cathy Wolf reported on the Holiday Gift Project which goes until December 20, 2010. We are still looking for gift-giving volunteers. The people who are receiving the gifts are destitute victims of domestic violence and their children.

Bridget Hartman reported on the Winter Coat Drive, which ends Friday, December 3, 2010, in which coats, scarves, gloves and mittens are being collected. The collections go to Interfaith Works.

The Turkey Trot created 62 baskets of food for Thanksgiving dinners for needy persons in Montgomery County. Both Town residents and the B-CC High School community at large contributed to the drive. The Town Staff was unbelievably helpful in this effort. Everyone's aid allowed the baskets to get to the families on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which was one day earlier than usual.

Julie Stanish reported on the Dinner Out Club which will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at Food, Wine & Co. at 7:00 p.m.

We would like to do another Spring Art Show in April featuring Town artists' work with a wine and cheese tasting on opening night. The tentative date is the weekend of April 15th. Put Ebinger will try to identify a volunteer to organize it. Next year we will do an exhibit for charity as we did last year for Partners in Health working in Haiti.

We are looking for new ideas for winter events for families.

One town resident suggested that we do a program with recycled art. (This has now been scheduled as an event for families, on February 13, 2011, and may be integrated with the potential Spring Art Show by encouraging artists who do recycled art to exhibit their work.)

The Bake Off and Newcomers Event is tentatively scheduled for March 13th or 20th. We are going to alternate the baked item each year. Erin Kopelman will be arranging for a judge and topic for this year.

We are not doing the Spring Writers Event this year.

The Chili Dinner will be on February 27, 2011.

We are thinking about having a Discussion and Desserts program with a food writer. Another topic we are considering is a panel on gardening tips.

Bridget Hartman reported for the Chevy Chase Historical Society. The Historical Society is doing a spring History Day on May 1, 2011. There will be activities for children as well as an exhibit of historical records and photographs.

Sally Kelly from the Environment Committee came to report on the Environment Committee's contributions to the Garden Tour to be held on May 22 or June 5, 2011. She explained how they plan to enhance the tour of beautiful Town gardens by adding an educational component on environmentally friendly gardening, including lawn care without chemicals, water conservation, native plants, reusable resource components, water conservation, how to handle invasive items, etc.

One potential event idea is Bark in the Park at Zimmerman Park, where there would be a dog trainer and a dog parade. This would be in the summer, if held.

Jean Carlson reported on Chevy Chase Elementary School. The 6th grade children will stay at CCES and at North Chevy Chase Elementary next year. They are trying to improve the CCES 6th grade curriculum by including foreign language and more social studies and P.E.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman