

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2010

7:00 PM

TOWN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members present: Ann Wild, Kathy Strom, Scott Egloff, Julie Stanish, Bridget Hartman, Cathy Wolf, Erin Kopelman

Julie Stanish made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16 meeting, Bridget Hartman seconded and everyone approved.

The Community Handbook is being distributed to Council members to review. It is expected to be finalized, printed and mailed in the next 6 weeks.

Scott Egloff gave the Neighborhood Watch update. The last meeting was 1/19/2010. Samantha Nolan, chair of the Chevy Chase (D.C.) Neighborhood Association Watch, spoke. Ms. Nolan trains communities in neighborhood watch. We have 27 potential block captains. They are looking for more people to volunteer as block captains. Scott Egloff, Dennis Carroll, and Bob Lyford are planning on getting together before the next meeting to put together a more formal program handbook (using the DC draft to expand on) to present to the Town Council for approval. They want to have an Information Session for Town residents, which would be a 2-hour program on Neighborhood Watch, crime fighting techniques, and crime prevention in April 2010. Ms. Nolan has offered to do a PowerPoint Presentation at the session. The next Neighborhood Watch block captain meeting is March 16, 2010. The Town Council has approved 10 Community Watch signs, which will be placed strategically at major entrances of the Town. Comments on the proposed handout should be given to Scott Egloff by February 4, 2010. The goal is to begin the program in the spring and have it in full force before the summer.

For the Meet Your New Neighbors / Bake-Off, Erin Kopelman reported that the owners of Georgetown Cupcake have agreed to judge the bake-off. Each person needs to bring 1 cake or 24 cupcakes, but are welcome to bring more. The event will be on April 11, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Town will provide printed certificates to the winners. The Town will provide coffee, tea, and lemonade. Erin Kopelman is working Georgetown Cupcake about providing coupons and a prize for the winner.

Belinda Wilbourn is spearheading getting artists for the Spring Art Exhibit (May 22-23) / Wine Tasting (May 22). The wine tasting will be held that Saturday from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Bridget Hartman has contacted A Wider Circle for the next possible community service event. Wider Circle needs baskets of cleaning items, toiletries, and other personal care items as house warming baskets as they move people into their new homes. This will be announced in March's Forecast.

Bridget also reported that Interfaith Works has a clothing bin next to Chevy Chase Elementary School. Barbara, at Interfaith Works, would like to properly mark and label the bin so people

know what it is. It is also going to be promoted in the Town Forecast. The bin may be on school property, in which case the marking of the bin will have to go through the school.

Ann Wild reported that we are considering co-sponsoring a climate change panel discussion with the Climate Protection Committee. The event would be held in the Town Hall, with the date yet to be determined.

Jean Lauderdale is hosting a recital for all Town residents with musical talent on Sunday, February 15, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The committee urged that adults be encouraged to participate.

The next Dinner Out Club was discussed for Thursday, March 11, 2010, possibly at Nest Cafe. Details, however, have yet to be confirmed.

The committee discussed having the Town sponsor a Red Cross Babysitting Course for Teens. The cost for the 8-hour course is \$480 and would require 8-24 students/teens. There will be a charge of approximately a \$25. per student. An upcoming Forecast will ask who is interested to see if we will run this course. If there is interest, the class would occur before the summer.

The B-CC Foundation has requested co-sponsorship with the Town of an author discussion. We currently do not have a co-sponsorship policy, but need one, which would need approval by the Town Council. The benefits to the other sponsor are that they do not pay for use of the Town Hall, and they get to use the Town name. Co-sponsorship is similar to a donation in-kind. A policy on co-sponsorship could be added to the Contribution Policy. Julie Stanish made a motion to amend the Contribution Policy to allow co-sponsorship of appropriate school foundations and other organizations that benefit the community. The vote was unanimously in favor. The B-CC event would be Sunday, April 25, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. where two B-CC alumni female authors would present how they got their books published. The event would include dessert and wine. The committee also suggested that this event could be brought to the Writer's Center for consideration.

Other upcoming events include the Annual Chili Dinner / Magician (February 21); the Puppet Show for Families (March 21); and the Da Capo Chamber Players Concert (date yet to be scheduled).

The Town History Book Revision is needed for the Town Centennial in 2018. Bridget Hartman is working on the tasks to be completed and then will be seeking volunteers. The Town has no extra copies of the original Town History Book.

Erin Kopelman agreed to serve as secretary for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Kopelman