

Community Relations Committee  
Minutes  
February 17, 2010

The Community Relations Committee met at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall on February 17, 2010. The following members were present: Ann Wild, Kathy Strom, Bridget Hartman, Julie Stanish, Tom Brault, Put Ebinger, and Scott Egloff. Put Ebinger agreed to take minutes of the meeting.

Bridget Hartman reported that she had arranged for a community service project with A Wider Circle to provide toiletries and other home products for welcome baskets for families moving out of shelters and into permanent housing.

Bridget also reported that Erin Kopelman and Belinda are working with Georgia Guhin and Katie Vita to organize an Art Exhibit for Town artists over the weekend of May 21-23. It will be opened with a wine tasting on Friday, May 21. Julie and Ann volunteered to serve wine.

Kathy Strom reported that a Discussion and Desserts program is being organized jointly with the Climate Protection Committee and the Environment Committee on the topic of climate change for 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 8. Town residents Alexandra Teitz, Charles Ebinger, Stephen Seidel, and Juliet Eilperin will contribute to the discussion, and Charles Duffy will moderate.

Julie Stanish reported that the Dinner Out Club had set March 11 as the next date for an outing, but the restaurant Nest could not accommodate the group reservation that night. After a discussion of alternatives, the Committee recommended that Julie hold the Dinner Out Club at Penang.

Kathy Strom reported that she will be advertising a Red Cross Babysitting Class for Town teens in the "Forecast" to see if there is enough interest to schedule one. She noted that a \$60. charge will have to be levied on each attendee.

Bridget Hartman announced that the B-CC Foundation's request for event co-sponsorship did not allow enough time to draft a policy for consideration by the Town Council in March. The Council will simply have to decide this case on its merits.

Ann Wild noted that only three bakers had signed up for the Cupcake and Cake Bake-off. However, the event is still several months away and will be advertised in various ways again. She also reported that 140 adults and 30 children had signed up for the Chili Dinner in February. During dinner the Chevy Chase Historical Society will be working with a B-CC student to tape stories about the Blizzard of 2010.

Ann also noted that a Town recital is scheduled for March 7. A Sunday Afternoon for Families is scheduled for March 21, and the Da Capo Chamber Players is scheduled for May 16.

Bridget Hartman proposed that the Committee consider a draft policy on Event Co-Sponsorship, which she had written. She noted that she could not simply amend the wording of the Town's

Contribution policy. Bridget pointed out that the most controversial areas in the proposed policy related to the waiver of facility fees and to the use of alcohol. After a discussion, the committee made two small changes to the draft and approved it for submission to the Town lawyer and then to the Town Council. The Committee thanked Bridget for her work.

Ann Wild reported that Sally Kelly of the Environment Committee had made a proposal to establish community bulletin boards at several locations within the Town to communicate to residents the work of Town Council and Town committees as well as to allow residents to post flyers on lost cats and dogs and notices about babysitting and tutorial assistance, etc. Kathy Strom noted that there is already a Town bulletin board at the Lawton Center. After a discussion of the proposal, the Committee recommended against the proposal because bulletin boards would entail too much administrative oversight for the size of the Town staff and had not been popular in the past when tried. Overall, the Committee agreed that most bulletin boards simply become too messy.

Scott Egloff updated the committee on his work on the Neighborhood Watch program. He noted that he had worked with two neighbors to produce a written document for the program. He announced that a Public Safety Information Meeting is scheduled for May 24 for Town residents to meet with Community Services Officer Dana Stroman. He also noted that he planned to make a renewed plea for additional block captains in the "Forecast." The Committee recommended that the notice provide the blocks of Town for which no one had volunteered. After a meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Group on March 16, the program should then be ready for the consideration by the Town Council.

Ann Wild adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Put Ebinger