

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
March 18, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Putnam Ebinger, Rose Edwards, Julie Stanish, Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison), and Scott Egloff. Rose Miller arrived at 7:25. Also attending were Warren Rizzi, the Town management assistant, and Daniel Button, a Town resident.

Julie Stanish offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 18, 2009, meeting. Kathy Strom seconded the motion, which was approved.

Kathy Strom said that the organizers of the Aging-in-Place initiative, Chevy Chase at Home, plan to offer the Town Forecast an update on their efforts. Ann Wild agreed to pass on the suggestion that the organizers use Survey Monkey, a Web-based survey tool, to gauge community interest in the initiative. Kathy Strom said that the Town was willing to print and insert the Aging in Place survey in an upcoming issue of the Forecast.

Scott Egloff reported on a recent public meeting on policing and public safety options, attended by about 30 residents, where the program was well received. Ten residents have expressed interest in becoming involved in a Neighborhood Watch program or getting more information. Kathy Strom asked committee members to contact people in the Town who might want to become Block Captains. The committee set April 16 for a meeting at which residents interested in Neighborhood Watch could learn about the program, offer suggestions and meet with Office Dana Matthis, the Montgomery County Police liaison to the program, if she is available.

The committee discussed a proposed listing of spring events in the Town that was prepared by Cathy Wolf and Belinda Wilborn, the Town's constituent services aide. The committee decided that the wine and cheese event would be held on Saturday, May 2, and the Volunteer Appreciation event would be on Saturday, June 6. Members also decided to make the June 6 event be about committee volunteer recruitment as well as volunteer appreciation. Committee volunteer recruitment will also occur at the Town Annual Meeting on May 5. Warren Rizzi said he would email committee chairs, suggesting that they bring materials about their committees to the June 6 event and to the Annual Meeting.

Reporting for Tom Brault, Kathy Strom said his research had shown that Aug. 19, 1909, was the date of the first platting in Chevy Chase, making this year the 100th anniversary. Town resident Bridget Hartman is willing to organize a progressive dinner in honor of the occasion and will come to the next Community Relations Committee meeting to discuss the event.

Rose Miller, who is organizing the Manna Food Center collection program, reported that residents have donated about 100 pounds of food so far. At her suggestion, the committee

agreed to put collection bins at the re-opening of the Leland Center playground in April, the wine and cheese event in May, the gardening event in May and the July 4 picnic and parade.

Julie Stanish said the first Chevy Chase Dinner Group Event, at the Shangri-La restaurant on Feb. 19 was a success, drawing 14 residents and generating an article in The Gazette. Residents expressed interest in another gathering, and Stanish said she anticipates holding a dinner group event every quarter. She plans to put a notice in the May Forecast.

Following a discussion of the dessert and discussion series, Kathy Strom and Putnam Ebinger agreed to contact possible speakers.

Regarding the July 4 Picnic and Parade, Strom said a committee, led by Susan Milner and Diane Mooney, has had an initial meeting, and planning is well under way.

The committee discussed the advisability of the Town's adopting a policy to govern charitable contribution and what it might say. Putnam Ebinger agreed to work with Kathy Strom on drafting such a policy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Edwards