

Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
May 20, 2009

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

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison), Rose Edwards, Scott Egloff and Rose Miller.

Rose Miller offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2009, meeting. Rose Edwards seconded the motion, which was approved.

Kathy Strom reported that the Town Council had unanimously adopted a proposed Town policy on charitable contributions after making two minor changes. The proposed policy was prepared by the Community Relations Committee.

She also said that three recent events—the Magicians Without Borders/ Playground Reopening on April 18, the Wine Tasting on May 2, and the East Avenue Ensemble Concert on May 9—were all well-attended.

Also, three host families so far have volunteered to participate in a Progressive Dinner being planned for September 12 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first platting in Chevy Chase. The committee responded favorably to Rose Miller's idea that the event include an opportunity for participants to make charitable contributions. Committee members also favored a suggestion, from Belinda Wilborn of the Town staff, that the Town hold a competition to design a centennial logo and with a proposal that the Forecast list historical facts about the Town throughout the year. Kathy said she would discuss these ideas with Town resident Bridget Hartman, who is coordinating the Progressive Dinner.

Rose Miller said collections for the Manna Food Drive have reached 95 pounds this month.

Scott Egloff said Officer Dana Matthis, the Montgomery County Police liaison to the Town, did a good job of explaining the proposed Neighborhood Watch program at a May 5 meeting with Town residents. About 20 people have expressed interest so far; summer block parties may be a good place to recruit addition volunteers. Scott said he would work with Warren Rizzi, the Town management assistant, about setting up volunteer training. Committee members expressed a desire for a written policy on the parameters of the program and the duties of the block captains; this could be prepared with the volunteers at an early meeting. Kathy asked committee members to continue to indentify people who would make good block captains.

Scott Egloff left at 8:05.

On new business, Rose Miller reported that Town residents Peter Winglee, Michael Lebowitz and Barbara Opper will be the panelists at a June 18 Discussion and Desserts on the international economic crisis. She also agreed to ask the Washington Revels about holding a community sing in the early fall; this could be part of a celebration of the Elm Street Park renovation.

Ann Wild and Rose Edwards agreed to work on guidelines for committee communication—with the public, other committees, and the Town—that could be proposed to the Town Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Edwards