

Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
June 16, 2010

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), Scott Egloff, Cathy Wolf, Julie Stanish, Bridget Hartman, Erin Kopelman, and Putnam Ebinger.

Julie Stanish offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting, which Bridget Hartman seconded, and the minutes were approved.

The Small Works for Haiti Art Exhibit was held Friday, May 21, 2010 through Sunday, May 23, 2010. The Committee raised \$6,420 for Partners in Health for their work in Haiti. Works sold for \$100, equivalent to the estimated value for each work.

There have been only five (5) students interested in the Red Cross Babysitting Course, but we needed three (3) additional persons to sign up in order for the course to go forward. Therefore, Belinda is investigating another venue for those interested. Scott Egloff is going to look into a Red Cross CPR class for people of all ages to take in the Town.

The Volunteer Appreciation Event on June 13, 2010 was very nice and well attended.

The Town Survey is being prepared, and the committee discussed the section that relates to community relations.

On May 24, 2010 the Public Information Forum on public safety was held. It was successful and very informative. The block captains are introducing themselves and getting contact information from the residents on their blocks. We are still looking for block captains for the Neighborhood Watch program.

For Manna Food we are doing a Summer Smart Snacks Drive at the July 4th Picnic. This food will provide Title I (free-school-lunch) children with healthy foods to bring home over the weekend during the summer months. We are asking town residents to bring food to the July 4th Parade and Picnic, or residents can leave food on their doorsteps on July 5th. There is a list of food that Manna is requesting that will be in a separate mailing about the July 4th event. (We will continue to collect food for Manna year-round. Manna's requests for food, in general, are up 56% this year.)

Decorating for July 4th begins at 12:00 p.m. and the Parade begins at 12:30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers for setup and clean up.

The Progressive Dinner will be on October 2, 2010. A Save the Date will be going out in the next Forecast. The opening reception will be in the Jane Lawton Center this year.

We are trying to line up speakers for Discussion and Desserts in the Fall 2010.

In this month's Forecast people will be asked to join committees, and Kathy Strom urged current members to reapply.

We are going to try to do a Dinner Out on July 8, 2010 at Tia Queta. Residents need to RSVP for this event.

Other issues discussed included a proposal to increase the Town's funding for block parties (now \$150), a proposal to hold movie nights in the Town, and a proposal for the Committee to hold listening sessions around the Town. All three proposals were defeated for various reasons.

Discussions occurred about doing a dance and band onsite or, alternatively, gathering residents to go to Glen Echo for the dance lesson followed by dancing.

Further discussions about Fall events will take place at the July meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman