

**Community Relations Committee  
MINUTES  
September 2, 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), Stephanie Grill, Bridget Hartman, Steve Keeble, Cathy Wolf, Tom Brault, Scott Egloff, and Putnam Ebinger. Warren Rizzi, the Town management assistant was also present.

Ann Wild asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

Cathy Wolf offered a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2005 meeting. Kathy Strom seconded the motion, which was approved.

By consensus, the committee decided to circulate the responsibility of taking and preparing minutes for the monthly meeting.

Scott Egloff reported on his efforts to organize a Neighborhood Watch program in cooperation with Rollingwood and Maplewood. After several meetings with the police, he has been able to recruit 23 block captains, whose homes were marked in red on a map of the town. Ultimately, he would like to have 100 volunteers so that there would be one for every ten houses throughout the neighborhood. He and Warren are trying to schedule the first three training sessions for October 1, 8 and 15, so he asked for the Committee's help in recruiting more volunteers this month. Members suggested the use of the *Town Crier* and the *October Forecast*. Scott was asked to prepare an outline of duties of the block captains and to e-mail it to committee members so that they could distribute it to potential recruits. Scott will also prepare a flier to be handed out at the Centennial Dinner. Scott also is hoping to create a DVD of the training sessions and a manual for future volunteers. Scott said he was pleased that the new night patrols had apprehended several car thieves.

Bridget Hartman reported that, with the wonderful help she had received from Belinda, the Centennial Dinner is nearly organized for September 12. She has 10 Houses for 116 people and is looking for another home. Put Ebinger reminded her that she had volunteered her home, but had heard nothing over the summer. Bridget needs one more dessert house and 2 more people to make dinners. She stated that everyone would meet at the town hall for a cocktail hour and a random drawing and would then proceed to a dinner house and a dessert house over the course of the evening. Stephanie Grill suggested that it might be best to reduce the number of the dessert houses in case some participants decide to go home after dinner, an idea the committee adopted. It was also decided that participants would draw one card giving the addresses of two different houses for dinner and dessert to maximize the number of neighbors they would meet during the event. Bridgett asked whether wine would be bought for both the dinner and dessert houses, and the Committee decided that dessert should be served with coffee and tea. Kathy Strom said that she would check on the town's liability for buying alcohol for consumption in private homes. Finally, Bridget reminded everyone that this occasion would be used to solicit food for the Manna Food Drive.

Kathy Strom confirmed that the B-CC Jazz Band had agreed to perform at the September 26th reopening of the Elm Street Park. Warren Rizzi confirmed that the park had passed its public inspection and that the construction fences would be removed on September 3.

Ann Wild also reported that Julie Stanish is working on the next Chevy Chase Dinner Out Group event in early October at the Moon Gate.

Put Ebinger is continuing to work on two Dessert and Discussion evenings, but has been unable to reach the speakers at summer's end. She will get in touch with them after Labor Day.

Cathy Wolf said that Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 17, but asked if the committee wanted to hold it this year, since only 30 of the 60 people who signed up for the event last year actually arrived. Kathy Strom and Tom Brault said the Oktoberfest had been great fun last year and everyone especially enjoyed the sausage. The Committee decided to hold it again and would try to raise more interest with better publicity. Belinda and Warren are available for the event; Stephanie volunteered to help with her son Phil. Bridget, Tom, and Ann also volunteered. Ann will contact Julie.

Ann stated that a Classical Flute and Guitar recital is scheduled for November 8. The Washington Revels and The Da Capo Chamber Players have volunteered to play for the town and Belinda will schedule them sometime in April or May, possibly for May Day.

A second annual Turkey Trot is scheduled for Sunday, November 22. Concerned that there may be a lack of turnout this year since the town will not be holding the event in anyone's honor, the committee considered ways to assure a large participation. Since it will be held the week before Thanksgiving, committee members discussed how the Turkey Trot might be linked to a seasonal charity event, such as making food baskets. Bridget said that she would contact B-CC where parents team up with area social services and with Wider Circle.

Ann Wild led a discussion of the Committee's Mission Statement. In two separate unanimous votes, it was changed to read:

"The mission of the Community Relations Committee is to give town residents the information they need to be active participants in the town's governance, to create a deep sense of community and neighborliness among the town's residents by organizing activities and events aimed at residents of all ages and interests, and to reach out to residents to ensure that their Government and services are responsive to their needs and concerns."

Steve Keeble brought in newspapers from other nearby towns. He stated that the committee should consider whether the Town of Chevy Chase is relying too heavily on the web, when so many older residents do not use that electronic communication. Kathy Strom noted that last year she had received editorial assistance from Rose Edwards and explained how she, Belinda and Rose Edwards will continue to pull together the *Forecast* each month. The Committee decided to read the materials Steve had kindly assembled before next month's meeting in preparation for a discussion on issue.

Bridget Hartman volunteered to take next month's minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Putnam Ebinger