

Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
June 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Bob Lyford, Bridget Hartman, Julie Stanish, Erin Kopelman, and Jean Carlson. Guest: Al Lang.

Town Council Member Al Lang came to discuss street light improvements as part of Public Comments. He requests that the Neighborhood Watch block captains take a look and report where there is not adequate lighting in their areas. We agreed to ask block captains if they were willing to report to the Town Office where they feel the Town could use more illumination. Bob Lyford will carry the request to the Neighborhood Watch program. We also encourage committee members and residents to speak up if they are in favor of having the town better lit.

Bob Lyford moved to approve the May 2011 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Bridget Hartman, and they were approved.

Bridget Hartman reported on the Garden Tour which was on May 22, 2011. At least 100 people attended and it was a huge success thanks to Bridget, Sally Kelly, the Environment Committee, and Community Relations Committee. It was an excellent example of an event cosponsored by Town committees.

The Discussion and Desserts on RainScapes on May 26, 2011 was well received. There was a fascinating discussion on the County's Rainscapes program and water conservation gardening, what was going on in the County, and what the Town and Town residents could do.

Ann Wild reported that Susan Milner is planning the July 4th celebration with Belinda and a committee. Diane Mooney is in charge of volunteers. People are beginning to RSVP. We are doing a special Summer Sacks Manna Food Drive on July 4th for children; there is a published list of requested foods in the June Forecast. Residents can start bringing food for the drive to the Town Hall on June 1. We will have a tent for the Manna Food Drive on July 4th and may have a tent for Neighborhood Watch to recruit more block captains.

We are scheduling the Progressive Dinner next year in 2012.

Jean Carlson reported that the new middle school is going to be up on Saul Road – the old Kensington Junior High site, with a park and a senior center now on the site.

Members of the committee who would like to be on the Community Relations Committee next year need to email the Town office by June 30, 2011, with the information set forth

in the Forecast. Ann Wild urged members of the committee to reach out to others who might be interested in joining the committee.

We discussed possible activities for next year:

1. Volunteer Appreciation Event: Perhaps combine it with Oktoberfest?
2. Oktoberfest: (early October) Oktoberfest is a popular activity. We would like a presentation on the different types of beers. We need to remind people to be respectful and not over-indulge. One suggestion to change things for this year is to do a blind taste test.
3. Ghost Story Tour: (late October) This is a new idea, which would be a walking ghost tour with hot chocolate or hot apple cider. (Julie Stanish and Erin Kopelman)
4. Turkey Trot: (November) (Bridget Hartman)
5. Gift Drive: (December) (Cathy Wolf)
6. Bingo: (January 21 or 28 in the social hall) Bingo may require a gambling license. We suggest doing it in the winter with a professional caller.
7. Square dancing: (February 11 or 25 in the social hall with a professional caller) (Jean Carlson and Bob Lyford)
8. Chili Dinner: (February)
9. Bake Off: (late March or early April) (Erin Kopelman)
10. Art Show with Opening Wine Reception: (April) This is an event to raise money for charity. This year we suggest supplying more information about how to contact the artists if you are interested in seeing more of their work. (Bridget Hartman will contact Katie Vita)
11. Round House Theater night: (month to be determined) (Jean Carlson)
12. Discussion and Desserts: Ideas are (1) plant expert for the spring; (2) a dog trainer; (3) have police officers come to discuss how to prevent crime or the topic of identity theft; (4) school administrators discussing how to start the school year, homework, and preparing for high school and college [perhaps coordinated with the PTA].
13. Dinner Out Club: (throughout the year) (Julie Stanish)
14. July 4th Celebration
15. Pizza and Politics: (September 2012 – a Discussion and Desserts during the presidential election year.)
16. Garden Tour: (Every other year; next one in 2013.)
17. Progressive Dinner: (Every other year, next one in 2012.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman