

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
May 5, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Bob Lyford, Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison), Bridget Hartman, Julie Stanish, Erin Kopelman, and Jean Carlson.

Erin Kopelman moved to approve the April 2011 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Bridget Hartman, and the minutes were approved.

The Wine and Cheese/Newcomers event was a big success. The blind taste test was a lot of fun and created a lot of interest.

Bridget Hartman reported on the Chevy Chase Celebrates event held on May 1, 2011. Three hundred people attended. All the trolley tours were full. All of the books sold out and orders taken for additional copies. The event would not have been possible without the help of Belinda Wilbourn and the Town staff. The Town had the most volunteers of all five Chevy Chase jurisdictions represented. The mural made that day is up on display in the Chevy Chase Library.

Bridget Hartman reported on the Garden Tour to be held on May 22, 2011. Sally Kelly, chair of the Environment Committee that is cosponsoring the event, is working on the educational component of the tour. Sally is working with the homeowners to identify good things that each garden is doing. There will be a master gardener at Sally's house, and at 5:00 p.m there will be a reception there.

There will be a Discussion and Desserts on the County's Rainscapes Program on May 26, 2011.

Kathy Strom reported that Susan Milner, who is heading the planning for the July 4th Celebration, already has volunteers lined up. Plans for the event are already underway. Bridget Hartman will investigate with Manna a special food drive at the event in addition to our regular collection in the Town office.

The Progressive Dinner is now tentatively scheduled for either Saturday, October 1, 2011, or Saturday, October 15, 2011. We need a new co-chair for the event since Bridget Hartman will be unable to co-chair the event with Cathy Wolf this year.

Warren Rizzi is going to create a link on the Town's website so that when you click on an event, it will allow you to send an RSVP e-mail for that event.

The attractive committee presentation at the reception before the Town Annual Meeting was on May 3, 2011.

Bob Lyford reported on the Neighborhood Watch program. They have gained a few new block captains. They are going to have a Safety Meeting in October featuring a member of the Town's police and a block captain. The program is looking for more block captains. One option is to promote the program through summer block parties.

Jean Carlson reported that two more volunteers have come forward for CCES. There are now seven volunteers total.

We reviewed the Community Relations portion of the Town's Strategic Plan, which will be then be reviewed by the Town Council. We edited the committee's mission statement as follows:

Mission Statement: The mission of the Community Relations Committee is to create a deep sense of community and neighborliness among the Town's residents. The committee organizes activities and events aimed at residents of all ages and interests; communicates to Town residents the information they need to be active participants in the Town; and helps residents reach out to their Town government so that it will be responsive to their needs and concerns. The committee also provides opportunities for community service.

Two other small changes were made to the committee's section of the Strategic Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman