

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
September 1, 2011**

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

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Kathy Strom (Council liaison), Jean Carlson, Put Ebinger, Bridget Hartman, Bob Lyford, Christine Riley, Julie Stanish, and Cathy Wolf

Member absent: Erin Kopelman

GENERAL BUSINESS

Public Comment: Since there were no members of the public present, there were no public comments.

Introduction of Committee Members: Ann Wild welcomed both returning and new committee members to the 2011-2012 year. Each member introduced himself/herself.

Appointment of Committee Secretary: Bridget Hartman moved to appoint Erin Kopelman as secretary for the year and expressed thanks for her work in previous years handling this task. Bob Lyford seconded the motion. The committee approved the appointment of Erin unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Bridget Hartman moved to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2011, meeting. Julie Stanish seconded the motion. Those eligible to vote approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Dinners for Neighbor Request: Ann Wild reported that Mary Anne Hoffman, chair of the Town's Mitigation Advisory Board, was seeking additional volunteers to help with meal preparations for the family of one of its members. Ann told committee members who could help to contact Mary Anne Hoffman directly at maryannehoffman@starpower.net.

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on September 16 @ 6:30 pm: Ann Wild reported that the Town needed three volunteers from the Community Relations Committee to assist with the event. Christine Riley, Julie Stanish, Bob Lyford, and possibly Kathy Strom offered to help with the event. As of this date, less than a dozen residents had indicated that they would be attending. The event will be promoted again to each of the Town's committees.

Public Safety Meeting on October 18 @ 7 pm: Bob Lyford and Kathy Strom reported that plans for the meeting (hosted by the Town's Neighborhood Watch Program) were moving forward. Notices will appear in both the September and October *Forecast* and on the Town Crier. Sergeant John D'Albora, who oversees the off-duty Montgomery County police officers who

patrol the Town, will speak on ways to protect your property from theft and safety tips for living in the Town.

Oktoberfest on October 14 @ 6 pm: Bridget Hartman reported that the Town Hall has been booked for the event. She proposed that this year's event start with a presentation on the history of beer and its different recipes followed by beer tasting. An array of Bavarian food will also be served. Bridget also asked that the Town use Oktoberfest as the kick-off for the Town's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Cathy Wolf suggested the theme of "Get a Little, Give a Little." Christine Riley offered to ask the proprietors of the recently opened Beer, Wine & Company in Bethesda if they would speak and oversee the beer tasting.

Art Show in the Spring 2012: Bridget Hartman reported that the Katie Vita has agreed to organize the art show. As with the 2010 event, all proceeds from the sale of the art will benefit a designated charity.

Dinner Out Club: Julie Stanish reported that the delayed opening of Havens on Wisconsin Avenue near the Farm Women's Market has thwarted plans to set a date for the next Dinner Out. The committee discussed several other possible restaurants. Ultimately the committee agreed, because of the Town's close proximity to Havens, it should wait for the Havens to open to schedule the next Dinner Out.

Round House Theatre Event: Jean Carlson reported that the Round House Theatre was very receptive to host a Town Discussion and Desserts at the theater in connection with a performance of *Double Indemity*. The play runs from May 30 to June 24, 2012. Jean will inquire about dates and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chevy Chase Elementary School Mentoring Program: With school year just beginning, Jean Carlson indicated that she will report on the needs of the CCES mentoring program at the next committee meeting.

Future Family Events: Ann Wild reported that Susan Milner is interested in spearheading/helping with family events for the Town. Susan mentioned to Belinda of the Town Office that Square Dancing and Drum Circles were possible events. The committee was supportive of pursuing/coordinating with either of these events and recommended that the events take place in January or February. It was suggested that Susan attend the October meeting of the committee. Ann will contact Susan.

Discussion and Desserts: Ann Wild reported that Charlie Cook, political analyst, has agreed to lead a Discussion and Desserts. Date is to be determined. Host house is to be determined unless the event is predicted to be large enough to be scheduled for the Town Hall. Bridget Hartman offered to ask a Town resident, who had previously expressed an interest in organizing a panel discussion on gardening, if she would host a Discussion and Desserts in the spring. Cathy Wolf

also agreed to contact another Town resident about a Discussion and Desserts on labor issues and another resident about a Discussion and Desserts on the Special Olympics.

Other New Business:

(a) Town/Lawton Community Center: Bridget Hartman reported that she has been asked to serve on the Advisory Board of the Lawton Community Center. Jordon Henson, the director of the Center, is interested in partnering with the Community Relations Committee/Town on the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot and the December gift drive. To provide better communication with Lawton Center staff about official Town-sponsored events at the Town Hall and the Lawton Center, the committee recommended that there be a point person from the Town staff to coordinate with the Lawton Center staff. Belinda Wilbourn in the Town Office will be that point person.

(b) Community Events: Cathy Wolf mentioned Shepherd's Table's Second Annual Help the Homeless Community Mini-Walk on September 11 from 9 to 10 am at Montgomery Blair High School. Bridget Hartman mentioned the B-CC High School Music Department's A Little Night Music Benefit on September 24 from 7 to 10 pm at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Hartman