

## Community Relations Committee

Thanks to everyone who attended last week's meeting (Dawn, Larry, Julie, Julie, Michael, Mier, Mary Ann and Tom) and Happy Holidays! Here is a quick summary of what was discussed and decided.

1. Finalize Proposed Mission Statement - we agreed on the following mission statement:

***The mission of the Community Relations Committee is to give town residents the tools 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 and institutions within the town to ensure that its Government and services are responsive to their needs and concerns.***

2. Town Handbook - There will actually be 2 handbooks. We will strive to get one out in late February. This one will be short, and focus on the building ordinances in time for building season. It will include a reference to county ordinances on noise since the town noise ordinance won't be done in time. Most of this is already drafted. I will get what we have and ask everyone to review a section before the next meeting - just to make sure it is understandable and short. The longer range task is to create a more comprehensive town handbook that would include all the information now covered in the telephone directory plus other topics like how to throw a block party, or what you can put out on the curb on trash and treasures days. We discussed putting this information in a loose leaf binder for each household, and then just sending updates as things change. We are aiming to complete this project by next fall. At our meeting in March we will brainstorm on what the handbook should cover.

3. Town sponsored events - There are events already on the calendar -- approximately one per month -- through 2007. I will get a copy of the calendar from Belinda so we can see what is on the schedule - I will send this out before next month's meeting. We decided we need to do more events in Elm Street Park so that it will be better utilized. We discussed the following ideas for other events/activities: Bingo night, Founders Day celebration in Elm St. Park, Monthly Book Discussion Group, Wine Tasting, Lectures by Notable Residents, Tennis Tournament, Movie Night/Discussion, Group Ticket sales to shows in area, better publicizing concerts, shows and other events at CCES and BCC HS. We decided that we also thought there could be more publicity for town events and that might increase participation. We will begin to plan an event for April/May at our next meeting.

4. Block Liaisons - We decided that to have even greater personal outreach, we would try to recruit block "partners" or "parents" for as many blocks as possible in the town. The purpose of these would be to help better communicate through word-of-mouth about town events, news, and to provide residents someone they could talk to about issues/concerns that could be reported directly back to the committee and the town council. These folks could also let people know about emergency or crime issues on

their block or in their part of town. We each agreed to think about our immediate blocks and try to identify people who would be willing and able to serve this function and come to the next meeting with names of people to "nominate".

5. We adjourned at 9:05 pm. Next Meeting reminder -- January 11, 7:30-9:00