

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 19, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Rose Edwards, Julie Stanish, Kathy Simonetti and Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison), later joined by Tom Brault, Martin Gold and Cathy Wolf.

Minutes of the Oct. 15 meeting were approved.

Kathy Strom said plans were proceeding for the Sunday, Dec. 7, holiday concert at the Town Hall. The concert, at 4 p.m., will feature musicians from the Town.

Julie Stanish reported that the Oktoberfest, on Oct. 18, drew about 60 people, though 80 had RSVP-ed. The food went quickly, though there was leftover beer, which was able to be refunded.

Kathy Strom said that many residents volunteered to drive people to the polls on Election Day, but only one resident asked for a ride. This may be because the campaigns are providing rides themselves.

The Town Council agreed to the Proposed Policy for Use of the Town Crier that the committee had submitted, according to Ann Wild. The council made one change: that the Crier would list thefts of both locked cars and unlocked cars. The Council let stand that the Town Crier would report theft of property from locked cars but not the theft of property from unlocked cars.

Ann Wild discussed the Aging in Place Initiative she is looking into, and Kathy Strom said that Mary Anne Hoffman of the Long Range Planning Committee would like to make the project a joint venture of the two committees and that Naomi Kaminsky and Joan Urban, also Town residents, would like to be involved, too. The Senior Luncheon on Dec. 18 will be a good place to gauge some initial interest in the idea.

Cathy Wolf reported on plans for the Nov. 23 Turkey Trot in honor of Mier Wolf. Murray Horowitz, director of the American Film Institute's Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, will be the MC; cider and sweets will be available after the walk, and there will be construction-paper turkeys for children. Tom Brault volunteered his family to help cut out the turkeys before the event.

Kathy Simonetti agreed to help Cathy Wolf transport gifts being collected for families in need; Cathy Wolf said the response from the Town has been good.

Kathy Strom reported that events coming up over the winter include three Sunday events for children (a puppeteer, an arts workshop, and a performer); the chili dinner; the playground reopening and the renaming of the building for Jane Lawton.

World Bank economist Barbara Opper has agreed to speak at a discussion and dessert, according Kathy Strom. No date or location for the event has been set yet.

Rose Edwards and Kathy Strom said the next few issues of The Forecast will reflect their efforts to make the publication newsier and more consistently organized. Committee members suggested including a calendar in actual calendar form, rather than a list of dates.

Martin Gold said he has spoken with Dave Walton about the Town Web site, which he hopes to make cleaner and more intuitive for users.

Julie Stanish said she would look into setting up dinners for residents at some of the quieter restaurants in Bethesda.

After discussion, the committee decided that at this time it does not support an idea, raised at a Town Council meeting, to put up information kiosks in town.

Cathy Wolf discussed plans for a progressive dinner in town next fall with a theme tied into the Town's history. Bridget Hartman agreed to organize that event.

The Hartmans are no longer going to organize the July 4<sup>th</sup> event, though, and Kathy Strom agreed to put a call for July 4<sup>th</sup> volunteers in the January Forecast.

The meeting adjourned at 9.

Resepctfully submitted,  
Rose Edwards