

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

The first meeting of this year's Community Relations Committee was called to order at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (Chair), Tom Brault, Putnam Ebinger, Rose Edwards, Martin Gold, Monica Medina, Rose Miller, Ketch Ryan, Kathy Simonetti, Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison) and Cathy Wolf.

The Chair reminded committee members of the committee's mission of seeking to create a "deep sense of community and neighborliness" and to ensure that the "(Town's) Government and services are responsive to (residents') needs and concerns". During introductions, members spoke of their specific interests in event planning and/or communication.

Former Chair Monica Medina offered background information on past committee activities. She also agreed to produce an Excel document with specific information on events, i.e. attendance (age breakdown as well as numbers), cost/person and degree of success.

Kathy Strom will investigate the budget for this year's committee.

The committee decided to sponsor the 2nd annual Oktoberfest and settled on Saturday, October 18 as the date. Tom Brault and Cathy Wolf will coordinate the event with the expert advice and assistance of Belinda Wilborn in the Town Office.

Kathy Strom announced that after 15 years of running the July 4th picnic the Hartman family is retiring. This news was greeted with many groans and much dismay! Kathy will talk to Bridget Hartman about the transition and committee members will recruit volunteers for this popular and well-attended event.

Kathy Strom has gathered newsletters from many jurisdictions in order to explore revamping the Forecast. Rose Edwards agreed to assist Kathy.

Ann Wild will pursue enhancement of the Town website and she will work with Martin Gold on this initiative. Suggestions will be discussed with the committee.

Rose Miller offered to spearhead a musical event to honor former long-term Town councilman Mier Wolf.

The committee began a discussion of how best to inform residents of crimes in the Town and adjacent neighborhoods. A draft proposal for use of the Town Crier was passed out for later discussion.

Kathy Simonetti volunteered to collect information from committee members on how to incorporate community service into Town events and to present a list at the next meeting.

Rose Miller volunteered to organize a cadre of Town teen volunteers to assist at community events.

Put Ebinger will investigate activities in coordination with Chevy Chase Elementary School.

Cathy Wolf and Ketch Ryan will collect ideas from the committee for possible future events.

Many suggestions and ideas were surfaced and will be explored in subsequent meetings. Among the topics were the following: aging in place (possibly in conjunction with the Public Safety Committee), continuation of the “Discussion and Dessert” evenings, community gardens, progressive dinners, and tool swaps.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Wolf, Secretary