

**WHO Communications & Newsletter
Committee Meeting, Aug 14, 2007
6:30 pm—Homewood Studios**

Present: Barb Bergeron, Rich Bergeron, Kathy Godfrey, Michelle Lewis, James Nelson, Beverly Roberts

Block Club mapping & recruiting project:

- James and Kathy pooled information, gathered from a variety of sources, about block club coverage in Willard-Homewood.
- Task force of James, Kathy, and Bev (as well as any additional volunteers) will focus on this project, in order to assure that work being done by CP&S and Communications committees is coordinated. The first step is to identify which blocks are organized, and getting our block-club map up-to-date. Task force will recruit additional help for canvassing, recruiting block club leaders, etc. Goal is to have an accurate map by October, so that there is time for canvassing, etc. before winter.
- Kathy will report to CP&S committee about Task Force.
- James will attend next CP&S committee meeting.

Tech issues:

- Rich explained that Open Source versions of useful applications such as Excel, Photoshop, and Dreamweaver can be downloaded (legally!) for free.
 - Search <http://web.sourceforge.net> for links to a variety of free software downloads.
 - Excel, which is included in OpenOffice, will be especially useful for compiling & sharing data (www.openoffice.org)
- Michelle, James, & Bev will meet on Sunday at 4:30 (at the Warehouse District Dunn Brothers) for an informal "geek" workshop (WebCalendar, listserv administration, & blog posting),
- Michelle will update editorial policy to indicate that it isn't appropriate to send messages of a commercial nature to the listserv, or post commercial messages on the blog.

O&S report:

- Mike Tabor sent out request for projected budget & 1 page description of activities for each committee (due Aug 17).
- Communications: commit to monthly event (either in conjunction with another organization or independently); @ \$200/event in supplies.
- Michelle will write up & submit to Mike

September/October events

- Michelle will contact Margie to see if she is interested in organizing yard sale for either September or October. Barb would be willing to help organize this event.
- Bev suggests a "youth appreciation" event (possibly a Halloween event or pizza party).
- James suggests an event celebrating/highlighting businesses in our neighborhood (a sort of "Taste of Willard-Homewood")
- A future event: Past & Present in the neighborhood: when the stone markers were restored, there was a great event when previous neighborhood residents returned to the neighborhood & met residents currently living in their houses. Can we do something like this again, to celebrate the history of the neighborhood & build bridges.

Grants/operating expenses

- As discussed at the last meeting, Bev has been researching the possibility of applying for funds to cover our committee's operating expenses, especially printing expenses for a "Welcome" packet for new residents.. She is working on an application to Northway Community Trust.

- Also, Bev has heard that Lockheed donates their gently-used computers to community organizations, and she will follow-up on this lead.

Getting word out about NorthPoint.

- Bev has discovered that NorthPoint is in the process of putting together a one-page brochure explaining their services to the community.
- Bev hasn't yet connected with Linda Fancher, but will invite her to attend our Sept 4 meeting & bring us up to date.

Ideas for items to include in Welcome Packets:

- Barb brought photocopies of a Minnesota Historical Society publication "The Homewood Stone Markers Project." This would be great to include in Welcome packet. We need to check on copyright/permissions.
- Flyer recruiting block club leaders.

BCL meeting (Aug 16th, 6:30-8:00): Michelle will give committee report, James will present on block club recruiting process.

Tech Workshop (listserve, WebCal & blog): This weekend, day/time TBA (contact Michelle for more info)

Next Communications Committee meeting: Tuesday, Sept 4, 6:30-8:00, Homewood Studios

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Michelle Lewis