

Community Building Committee Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2018 – 6:30pm
Edgumbe Recreation Center – 320 S Griggs Street

MINUTES

In Attendance: Tom Dietsche, Jason Bergum, Craig Skone, Britta Sherrill, Joyce Krech, Anne LeDuc, Leigh Benvenuti, Kathy Kelso, Abby, Vanessa Lucius

Introductions /Additions or Deletions to Agenda

- None

Approval of January 2018 Minutes

- The minutes from the January 2018 meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Frost Fest Recap

- Overall feedback was positive – weather, treats, hot chocolate. Todd Curtis mentioned the participation in some events (races, hot shot) were lower than past years.

2018 Event Dates/Checklist

- Reviewed the Event Planning Guide. Identified a few minor changes. Please direct additional feedback to Britta or Tom.
- Suggested moving the Flag Making event from April 9th to May 14th

Elevator Speech

Kathy Kelso: The Macalester Groveland neighborhoods are comprised of a tapestry of diverse individuals. Assisting neighbors to form relationships and building strong communities within their neighborhoods is an essential function of the MGCC through the Community Building Committee planned activities, such as urban gardening and community festivals.

Tom Dietsche: The Macalester-Groveland Community Council (“MGCC”) is the only non-profit organization working exclusively to make Macalester-Groveland a great place to live, work, learn and play. The council’s Community Building Committee (“CBC”) conducts events and programs that build connections, preserve safety, and enhance the unique character of Macalester Groveland. These include Alley Garden and Native Garden awards, Mac-Grove Fest, Frost Fest, Fix-Up Clinics, Home Improvement Fairs, Mac-Grove Mini-Grants, community forums, and similar programs that contribute to our community, improve communications and increase involvement, especially with historically under-served community sectors.

Kathy and Tom shared their drafts (above) and then the Committee discussed. Some random comments:

- Engaging neighbors – like this idea
- “Call” for help/volunteers – as part of the elevator speech
- Start with MGCC first, then describe CBC
- Leigh suggested that committee members share information about our upcoming events on various social media platforms.

Tom would like the committee members to think more about the elevator speech and come back next meeting with additional thoughts & comments.

Spring Garden Event

- May 12th at Edgumbe Rec Center, 9 AM to 2 PM
- Plant Share
- Ann Dolan – Seed Planting Event
- Dave P. – Water Steward Event
- Vanessa suggested the name “**Garden Fest**” (using our theme of “Fests”) – from baby gardener (seeds) to master gardener (plants) to container gardening (aero gardening / container gardening). Appealing to a broad range of neighbors.

Community Forums / Community Conversation

- Goal – bringing people together that have a common interest
- What about different days/times to host these events –track attendance over a period of time to determine
- Would like to benefit community/involve community members with each other and also involve community members with MGCC
- Idea: How to talk to someone you don’t agree with – without becoming divisive
- Discussed partnering with other DC's to draw a bigger crowd to each forum

Tom asked us to review the list of suggested topics from the January retreat (document titled CBC Parking Lot List) and also identify others for discussion at our next CBC meeting. Tom also asked member to bring 3 well-defined forum topics to our March meeting for review so we can build a good list, then ask for feedback on which ones are the most important to community members

Upcoming Events:

- Next Meeting is Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM
- Home Improvement Fair is Saturday, March 10, 2018

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by Joyce Krech
02/13/2018