



Stratford C.A.R.E Committee

Minutes October 7, 2015

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Stratford Community Services
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In attendance:

Donald Goodson, John Fahan, Yan Searcy, Elene Crosby, Ann Stockman, Lucretia Duwel, Lynnette Baroni, Tania Livingston, Stephanie Philips, Karen Edwards.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda – Ann Stockman. Second – Lucretia Duwel.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes – Lucretia Duwel. Second -Elene Crosby

Treasurer's Report: Donald Goodson gave report in Olga Pena's absence. Donald promised that the anonymous individual who donated \$3,000 to CARE will receive a thank you notice from the committee.

Old Business:

Police/Community Relations: No Report. Chief Ridenhour had other commitments.

Latin Festival: Ann Stockman reported that the Latin Festival was a great success. There was a discussion about the potential of having a Hindu Festival. Stephanie Philips said she is a member of Celebrate Stratford which is an organization that helps to market non-profit organization events and businesses in town. She would be delighted if the Hindu community would be interested with help to put an event together.

St. Joseph Church Community Gathering: Ann Stockman gave an update to the committee about the gathering.

Everyday Democracy/CCRE: Carolyn Abdullah is the new contact person from Everyday Democracy since Gloria Mengual's departure from the organization. Carolyn provides management oversight to Everyday Democracy's community assistance team and Senior Associates who work with communities and school districts to find democratic ways of addressing local political and social issues.

Press Release: Yan Searcy and John Fahan presented a draft Op-Ed piece about CARE that was viewed favorably by the committee. The committee agreed to publish the piece after the November elections and contingent upon any input from Police Chief Patrick Ridenhour.

Public Safety/Community Recognition Event: Yan Searcy, John Fahan, Karen Edwards, and Stephanie Philips agreed to meet in the near future to start organizing the event for next fall.

Education Committee: Lucretia gave a report on the Third Annual Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest. There were 120 submissions. Many students wrote about people right in the Stratford community or family members who make a difference in their lives. Yan Searcy queried about having the winning essay video viewable online. Lucretia stated she will seek privacy permission to have it posted on the Library's YouTube site.

Lucretia also spoke about the "Small State Big Debate" Forum she attended sponsored by the CT Mirror. One of the panelists was Charles M. Blow from the NY Times. He spoke about unstructured racism at the average person level. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston spoke about its community relations people that analyze income disparities and the racial wealth gap that is not getting better.

Mini Grant for Teachers: Olga Pena provided a report which stated that CARE could propose to the Superintendent that we would like to offer a mini grant to be presented at the 2016-2017 school opening meeting. This can be done via the best organization under our name or independently. A criteria needs to be prepared and circulated to all the teachers grades K-12. Olga needs help from about 3 people to set up and prepare the criteria.

Leadership Committee: Stephanie Philips provided an update on the WPCA referendum and a general overview of the upcoming Town Elections.

BOE Meetings: Tania Livingston spoke about the challenges she is having with obtaining her child's school records and the lack of communication in the school system. She plans to attend the BOE Candidates Forum on Oct 28th and asked other CARE members to attend.

Adjournment: 9:05pm. Ann Stockman, Second – Elene Crosby.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahan

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