

MINUTES

Woodridge Community Wellness Council

October 22, 2008

ATTENDEES

Patti Bellock, State Representative
Melissa Bohse, Village of Woodridge
Kristin Bormann, District 99 Community Consolidated School District South High School
Julie Burke, WCWC Chair
Lt. Jay Caron, Woodridge/Lisle Fire District
Tim Cramer, Breaking Free, Inc
Mary Ann Frank, Woodridge Junior Woman's Club & Woodridge 50th/40th Anniversary Committee
James French, Woodridge/Lisle Fire District
Reverend John Hoekema, Horizon Community Church
William Murphy, Mayor of Woodridge
Carrie Noe, Woodridge Police Department
Pat Nugent, Metropolitan Family Services
Greg O'Donnell, Metropolitan Family Services
Lee Pistilli, St. Scholastica School
Don Ritter, Woodridge Park District
Becky Surber, Woodridge School Dist. 68
Beth Van Opdorp, Woodridge Public Library
Teri Vasile, Woodridge Community Resource Center

INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Burke, Woodridge Community Wellness Council (WCWC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and welcomed the council members to the meeting. Members introduced themselves and stated their affiliation. Mayor Murphy and Julie Burke welcomed new attendees Patti Bellock, Carrie Noe, Jon Hoekema, and Pat Nugent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2008 meeting. A motion was made by Mary Ann Frank to approve and seconded by Lee Pistilli. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woodridge Diversity Committee - Julie Burke

The Diversity Committee has recently undertaken a special project. It is the creation of a 50th anniversary quilt for the village. The theme is diversity. Youth in grades four through eight in School District 68 and St. Scholastica School are participating. They were given paper on which to create their designs which were entered in a contest. They were about 1400 entries of which just 71 could be chosen. The winners were then given background fabric and scrap fabric from which to make the blocks for the quilt. The offer to do the quilt came from Pieceful Heart Fabrics in Lisle with the caveat that the quilt had to be auctioned or raffled off to benefit a

charity. The Diversity Committee chose the Woodridge Community Pantry as the recipient. The Committee also decided that since the quilt would be such a lasting contribution to the community that instead of raffling off the quilt, the prize would be the right to have the winner's name on a plaque next to the quilt naming that person as the donor of the quilt to the village. The quilt will be unveiled at the State of the Village Luncheon and Address on January 15, 2009. The event will kick off the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the village.

School District 68 - Becky Surber

This year the schools are focusing on the total child. A new wellness center is being built at Jefferson Junior High School. The Center was made possible when District 68 was awarded the extremely competitive Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant from the United States Department of Education. The grant, valued at \$300,000, will be awarded over the next three years. The Wellness Center will move the current curriculum toward best practice in physical education. One of the goals of the center will be to help reduce the growing problem of obesity in youth. The center will be completed in March 2009.

The school district is in its second year of a social and emotional learning grant from the Regional Office of Education. One of the goals is to develop caring children. The program is built into the school curriculum.

Woodridge Park District - Don Ritter

The dedication for the new Forest Glen Park at 2908 Forest Glen Parkway near 75th Street and Woodridge Drive will be held on October 25th at 10:00. The park is fully accessible to disabled people with accessible playground equipment and swings, an accessible park shelter, a raised sensory garden and a water feature. There is also an opportunity for residents to participate in the Memorial Tree Program and/or the Engraved Paver Program. The park received funding from the Kellogg Fund and a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECO) grant supported by State Representative Patti Bellock.

The Haunted Forest Walk will be held the weekend of October 25 – 26th.

Woodridge Police Department - Carrie Noe

The police department is involved in developing and maintaining Neighborhood Watch Groups to prevent burglaries. It has an emergency plan for natural disaster. It presents bike safety laws to the community.

Village of Woodridge - Melissa Bohse

The village began the Strategic Management Process on October 2nd. Feedback from residents via the community survey is valuable for the process. The next step is goal setting with the Village Board.

Mayor Murphy congratulated Melissa on her promotion to management analyst for the village.

Woodridge Junior Woman's Club - Mary Ann Frank

The Woman's club has six new members. It conducted a successful clothing drive to help women who have returned to work and need appropriate apparel and accessories.

Celebrate Woodridge 50th/40th Anniversary Committee - Mary Ann Frank

- Celebrate Woodridge Anniversary grant applications are due October 31, 2008 and grant awards will be announced on November 30, 2008. Grant funds are available to enhance

current community events focusing on the anniversaries. Funds are also available for new projects such as the anniversary quilt.

- Information about the anniversary celebration year, grant application form and guidelines can be found at: www.celebratewoodridge.org.
- A Memorial Day 2009 parade is planned.
- Other village celebrations such as Fourth of July and the Jubilee will be expanded to include the anniversaries' observations.

District 99 Community Consolidated School District South High School - Kristen Bormann

Prevention activities at the school include Snowball, DARE, Snowflake, and Red Ribbon Week. Kristin said that she is very interested in continuing to attend Wellness Council meetings.

St. Scholastica School - Lee Pistilli

- The school is observing Red Ribbon Week with activities aimed at substance abuse prevention.
- On Election Day, the school is holding an assembly to educate students on the issues and candidates. Students have been chosen to portray both candidates. The kids have been studying the issues and will present their platforms to the assembly. Students have also been chosen to portray their wives. The assembly will end with students voting for the candidate of their choice.
- The school has held successful fundraisers to support the Woodridge Community Pantry.
- The school has also collected money and food for the Illinois flood victims.
- Each class has different "People of Service" projects.

Woodridge Library - Beth Van Opdorp

- The library is using the Wii in children's programs which has resulted in continuing large attendance. One activity was a Super Smash Brothers Tournament which has been popular.
- There will be a free folk music program at the library on October 25th at 2:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Family Services - Pat Nugent

The Parents as Teachers program is now full. It is a home visiting program for children from birth to age 5. Counselors work with the parents on the developmental needs of the children. Families often stay in the program for many years as other children are born into the family.

Metropolitan Family Services - Greg O'Donnell

The agency's MetroMentors program has a site at the Woodridge Community Resource Center on Tuesdays. Students range in age from 7-14. The program is in need of additional mentors for the program, particularly males.

Woodridge Community Resource Center (CRC) -Teri Vasile

- The summer program had over 80 students. The Rotary Club of Woodridge provided funding for the Catch the Reading Craze program.
- The after-school program has started. A total of 114 students registered but only 86 could be accepted because of space limitations.
- New student programs include Tae Kwon Do, art, crochet, and Campfire USA.
- Teri is working with Best Buy to secure donations of new computers and televisions. The store has already donated a new stainless steel refrigerator.

- The CRC provides space for continuing adult education programs including a free computer class provided by the People's Resource Center, English as a Second Language (ESL) with the College of DuPage and the School on Wheels teachers.
- Volunteers are needed to assist with homework Mondays through Fridays.
- There will be upcoming holiday celebration for the students, families and volunteers.

Village of Woodridge - Mayor William Murphy

The Mayor talked about how the Wellness Council began more than 20 years ago as a community group required as a condition of substance abuse funding. The grant funding ended some years later but the Council has endured. He said that most of the community councils formed to meet grant requirements disbanded years ago when the funding ended. He said the Council is a testament to the dedication of all the community leaders who serve Woodridge residents.

He said that some residents in the village are experiencing hardships due to the poor economy. He talked about the foreclosure reports he receives and how seeing the map of foreclosure sites brings home the difficulties many people are facing. The Woodridge Community Pantry is serving even greater numbers than anticipated. He encouraged people to attend the Pantry's Auction Dinner on April 26, 2009 at the Lisle Hilton.

He also mentioned that people in need can receive services from the Walk-In Ministry of Hope housed at the First Congregational Church of Downers Grove, 1047 Curtiss Street directly across from the Downers Grove Library. The Ministry is a consortium of churches and businesses in the greater Downers Grove area. It provides short-term aid for food, medication, gasoline and one-time medical needs. It also has a large referral data base for people who need additional assistance.

Horizon Community Church - Jon Hoekema

- The church is new to the community and is dedicated to the community.
- The church became a host site for Angel Food Ministry in August. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and contributing to benevolent outreaches to communities throughout the United States. The Ministry has already received several orders for food.
- ESL classes began in August
- The church's website can be found at www.horizoncc.org.

Breaking Free - Tim Cramer

- The Guiding Good Choices program is available in English and Spanish.
- The deep cuts in state funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment have resulted in many layoffs at Breaking Free. A supplemental appropriation bill was passed in the General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature. It is not certain that he will sign it.

Lisle/ Woodridge Fire Protection District – Captain Jay Caron & Chief James French

- October is Fire Prevention Month. The theme this year is Prevent Home Fires.
- The Fire Prevention District has the top rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). ISO surveys communities on a regular basis to determine the Public Protection Classification for the fire protection services protecting the community. The Lisle/Woodridge Fire Protection District was one of the first to receive the highest rating several years ago.

Woodridge Rotary Club - Julie Burke

The Club will hold its Fourth Annual Auction on December 2, 2008 at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Proceeds from the event benefit the CRC, Woodridge Community Pantry, Seaspar, and Serenity House locally, as well as international initiatives such as Alliance for Smiles and the eradication of polio worldwide.

The Rotary Club is also in the process of providing funding for furniture for the two group homes in Woodridge purchased recently by the Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities. The Association is a nonprofit organization that provides a broad array of services and supports to more than 2,500 children and adults with disabilities that include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and autism. Services include vocational, respite, educational, recreational, and residential programs.

Comments - Patti Bellock

Patti Bellock expressed her appreciation for being invited to the meeting. This was the first time she had attended the Council meeting. She stressed the value of the Wellness Council and applauded all for ongoing dedication and excellent contributions to their communities. She said that it was helpful to her to learn of new resources to which her office can direct people.

She announced the opening of the new People's Resource Center in Westmont. They are always looking for volunteers.

She briefly discussed the many challenges with the state budget and the deep cuts in funding for human services. The General Assembly will continue to try to restore the cuts.

NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.