

Minutes

Woodridge Community Wellness Council

October 20, 2010

ATTENDEES

Joy Aaronson, CDI Head Start
Casey Amayun, Positive Parenting DuPage
Jeff Bean, Woodridge Police Department
Melissa Bohse, Village of Woodridge
Kristin Bormann, Community Consolidated School District 99
Kathy Blair, Giving Du Page
Julie Burke, WCWC Chair
Maria Castellanos, Woodridge Community Resource Center
Mary Ann Frank, Woodridge Junior Woman's Club
Jon Hoekema, Horizon Community Church
Michelle Lanzi, Du Page County Health Department
Cathy Morava, SEASPAR
Pat Nugent, Metropolitan Family Services
Julie Rhodes, Woodridge Park District & Woodridge Jaycees
Janell Robinson, Walk-In Ministry of Hope
Regina Rogers, Project H.E.L.P.
Katy Rush, Village of Woodridge
Rob Siebert, Boy Scouts of America
Eliane Stefango, Metropolitan Family Services
Becky Surber, Woodridge School District 68
Beth Van Opdorp, Woodridge Public Library
Teri Vasile, Woodridge Community Resource Center
Vicki Zwart, Woodridge Patch

GUESTS

Lisa Thompson, Woodridge School District 68
Melissa Love, Woodridge School District 68

INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Burke, Woodridge Community Wellness Council (WCWC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed council members and special guests to the meeting. Maria Castellanos volunteered to take the notes for the meeting. Members introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2010 meeting. The minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woodridge School District 68 – Becky Surber

Woodridge Reads! Program

Becky Surber introduced Lisa Thompson and Melissa Love who explained the new Woodridge Reads! Program that launched at the beginning of the school year. The goal of the program is to have people in the village read 50,000 books by June 1, 2011. After reading a book, people are asked to visit the Woodridge Public School District website, www.woodridge68.org, and complete a short survey about the book. The school district is reaching out to all segments of the community to participate in the program. It will meet with the Golden Years senior group in early November.

SWOT Analysis

The results of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis in which the Wellness Council participated at its last meeting are being compiled. Results of the Analysis will be presented at the January 19, 2011 Council meeting.

Woodridge Junior Woman's Club – Mary Ann Frank

- The school supply drive has ended and the supplies have been delivered.
- The business clothing drive resulted in hundreds of pieces of clothing being collected and donated.
- Thanks to all who provided pajamas for the Club's drive for Family Shelter Service.

Metropolitan Family Services – Pat Nugent

The Parents as Teachers Program is an early intervention program that serves children up to the age of four and their families. Currently the program can serve English speaking families only; the Spanish-speaking program had to be terminated due to staff cutbacks. If anyone knows of funding opportunities to reinstitute the Spanish-speaking component, please let Pat Nugent know.

Du Page County Health Department - Michelle Lanzi

- Closest clinic is in Westmont at Cass and Ogden Avenues
- Free services are provided to those in need who do not have insurance. Clients must register with Access Du Page in order to qualify.
- Flu shots are available for children ages six months to 18 years on October 23 and November 6. Appointments are required.
- Handout provided listing services provided by the Health Department including Family Health Services and Mental Health Services to name a few.

Walk-in Ministry of Hope - Janell Robinson

- Located in Downers Grove where it rents space from the First Congregational Church at 1147 Curtiss Street directly across from the Downers Grove Library.
- Provides emergency services to people in Willowbrook, Westmont, Downers Grove, Lisle and Woodridge.
- Services provided include food and gas vouchers, local train and bus vouchers, emergency prescription assistance, car repair assistance, financial counseling and referrals to other sources such as Access DuPage, Lenscrafter's Gift of Sight program and other agencies that can help with housing, healthcare, substance abuse and mental health concerns.

- Clients can receive up to \$75 a year in assistance.
- They are working with Culver's to provide Thanksgiving dinner to low income people.
- WIMOH is sponsoring a workshop on changes in healthcare on November 13.
- Contact information: 630-241-0187 for administration; client line is 630-322-9803. www.wimoh.org.

School District 99 – Kristen Bormann

- Red Ribbon event will be held on October 26. Guest speaker is Bob Stutman. The public is welcome to attend.
- Snowball event will be held in February 2011.

Woodridge Public Library – Beth Van Opdorp

Upcoming programs include:

- Book discussion on October 23
- Food for the Brain on November 11
- Ebay 101 – November 4

Giving Du Page – Kathy Blair

- Organization exists to connect donors and volunteers with opportunities to get involved in local agencies.
- Website features an interactive volunteer match with volunteer and donation opportunities at a variety of Du Page County non-profit organizations.
- Sponsors annual volunteer recruitment fair as part of the Green Fair at Catigny. This year's date is September 25.

Project H.E.L.P. – Regina Rogers

- Project H.E.L.P is a community-based organization established by the Exchange Club of Naperville in 1992. It offers programs that empower parents with skills for successful parenting. Services include a parent mentor program, parent education, and a parent support group.
- To be eligible, parents must have at least one child under the age of 13 and reside in Du Page County.
- The program is free and voluntary.
- It provides discount coupons for clothes and other needs.
- Contact information: 630-357-5683; www.projecthelpdupage.org.

South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation (SEASPAR) - Cathy Morava

- Founded in 1976, the mission of SEASPAR is to provide recreation programs and services for residents with disabilities. Its vision is to enhance the quality of life for all SEASPAR residents with disabilities by providing excellence in recreation through programs and services.
- Scholarships are available for families with financial difficulties.
- Have year round program for Community Resource Center children.
- Talent show in December; public is invited to attend.

Woodridge Park District – Julie Rhodes

- Winter activity guides will be out in the next two weeks.
- Haunted Forest Walk on October 29 and 30.

Woodridge Jaycees – Julie Rhodes

- Chuck Ceja Golf Outing was held on October 9
- Chili for Children fundraiser will be held on November 14 at Shanahan's at 11 a.m.

Village of Woodridge - Melissa Bohse

- Annual Town Meeting was held on September 30; Village is compiling results from the breakout sessions.
- Village is working on its strategic plan.

Woodridge Community Resource Center (CRC) - Teri Vasile

- The 2010-2011 After School Program (ASP) is in full force with 80+ children. The CRC will continue to offer a variety of programs. The first hour is dedicated to homework with assistance from volunteers. These volunteers are from College of Du Page, Downers Grove South and Downers Grove North High Schools, residents and senior citizens.
- Karate is provided to students from 2nd - 6th grade of the ASP.
- SEASPAR will again provide 4th – 8th graders with different outings including seasonal sports such as fishing, hockey and ice skating. These outings will promote physical activities each week.
- Art classes are provided for all students of the ASP.
- Students are learning a dance curriculum with a professional dance instructor. In May, 2011, the CRC will host a dance production. The CRC is looking into possibly having the production at Downers Grove South High School.
- Staff of the Woodridge Public Library continue to provide excellent story time and craft activities with the CRC students in kindergarten and first grade.
- The CRC balloon release in support of Lights on Afterschool will be on October 21 at 4:00. Each child writes a message on a self-addressed post card about why the ASP is important to them that is attached to a balloon. Many of the postcards are returned to CRC and the card that travelled the farthest is recognized.
- The 2010 Thanksgiving party is planned for November 18, 2010. CRC students will enjoy an old fashioned Thanksgiving meal at the CRC.
- The 2010 Secret Santa celebration is planned for December 18, 2010. Thanks to St. Scholastica for offering the Activity Center for this event.

Woodridge Police Department - Jeff Bean

Jeff Bean will make a presentation on Cyber Bullying for parents and the public. Julie Burke will send out the particulars as soon as she receives them.

Boys Scouts of America - Rob Siebert

- The Boy Scouts celebrated their 100th anniversary in June with 3000 celebrants at Catigny Park
- The Jamboree was held with 40,000 adults and children attending.
- Woodridge has four cub scout packs serving all schools in District 68.
- Popcorn sales are going on now.
- Four troops help with the Haunted Forest Walk.
- Cathy Morava offered SEASPAR's helping in assisting troops with special needs youth.

Horizon Community Church - Pastor Jon Hoekema

- The church is currently partnering with the Walk-In Ministry of Hope and CDI Headstart.
- The parking lot in the Meadowbrook Shopping Center where the church is housed. has a carnival going on now with some of the proceeds going to the music funds at North and South High Schools.
- The church provides rehearsal space for the West Towns Chorus. He Chorus will have its annual Christmas concert at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove the second weekend in December. Last year 3500 people attended. www.westtowns.org.

CDI Head Start - Joy Aaronson

- Funded by the American Recovery Act.
- Serve children from birth through five years of age in families below the poverty line at six schools in Du Page County.
- Have been using space at Horizon Community Church for staff since August due to unexpected delays with the opening of the Woodridge site. The site will have space for infants and toddlers and all day, year-round daycare.

Positive Parenting Du Page - Casey Amayun

- Organization does not provide direct service but maintains a website with 1300 resources for families.
- Any professional event that works with families can be emailed to them for posting on their website. camayun@positiveparentingdupage.org.
- Last night a forum was held for local candidates; 12 of the 14 candidates attended. The forum gave local service providers a chance to ask questions of the candidates, particularly issues dealing with funding.

Patch - Vicki Zwart

- Patch is a new online news service sponsored by AOL. It launched in Woodridge in September. You can visit the website and/or subscribe to a daily or weekly service at no cost. woodridge.patch.com
- Melissa Tussing is the Woodridge Patch editor. Send any news of Woodridge to her. melissat@patch.com.

Rotary Club of Woodridge – Julie Burke

- The Club held an evening of jazz fundraiser for the Community Resource Center in September. Final figures aren't in but the Club expects to net \$4000 for the CRC.
- The annual recycling event will be held in May.
- The annual mini-triathlon will be held in August.

Metropolitan Family Services MetroMentors Program - Julie Burke

The program will hold its annual Winter Carnival Fundraiser for its mentoring program on January 23, 2011 at the Seven Bridges Ice Arena from 3:00 - 5:00.

Other Announcements - Julie Burke

VNA (Visiting Nurses Association)

The agency provides home health, hospice, and community health and wellness services as well as a VNA Health Center. Income-based fees are available for those in need. Contact information: 630-978-2532; www.vnafoxvalley.org

Du Page Home Ownership Center

The agency is a non-profit, HUD certified agency that offers free foreclosure prevention workshops and counseling. It also provides free help for first-time home buyers. It also has a Home Ownership Preservation for the Elderly (HOPE) program that provides information and counseling on reverse mortgages, tax relief options, and low-cost home repair programs. Services are available in English and Spanish. Contact information: 630-260-2500; www.dhoc.org

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2011 meeting schedule was distributed. The Council will meet:

- January 20, 2011
- April 20, 2011
- July 20, 2011
- October 19, 2011

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