

OSHER LIFE LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI) AT UNC ASHEVILLE
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)
MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Committee members present: Marie Bauer, Vinod Jindal, Bobbi Laratta, Kathleen Mainardi, Sarah Reincke, Harriet Zaidberg

Others present: Brandy Bowman-UNC Asheville Liaison, Bobbie Rockwell-OSC Liaison

Committee members absent: Ken Cooper, Carol Culler, Annie Houle, Walt Leginski, Dana Zarr

Others absent: OLLI Staff position vacant

- I. Sarah called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.
- II. Executive Committee Liaison report – Bobbie reported:
 - CEC turnover is a concern to OSC.
 - They are working hard to make sure a smooth transition occurs.
 - The Nominating Committee will pass along possible names to Sarah very soon.
 - Kathleen passed along 2 names to Sarah as possible CEC members.
 - Kitty Schaller will present at the upcoming OSC meeting and share her experience as to how to recruit and retain volunteers.
 - A general discussion took place regarding volunteer appreciation.
 - The general consensus is that volunteers don't expect any recognition yet definitely appreciate it.
 - History shows that a specific event to honor volunteers has not been well-attended.
 - Possible ideas for Volunteer Appreciation Week (in conjunction with national theme in April 2018):
 - Repeat the flip-chart display used in 2017, asking members to list their volunteer activities (not necessarily through OLLI)
 - A week-long recognition of volunteers, providing free refreshment (e.g., coffee or cupcakes)
- III. UNC-Asheville Liaison report – Brandy reported:
 - She is juggling her time between CEC and her Resource Meeting at Enka (which meet at the same time). It's possible that she will send a representative to some future CEC meetings.
 - The Homework Diners are going well and will be scheduled more regularly in 2018. Six volunteers are needed each time.
 - Discover UNC Asheville continues with 6th graders from Montford Star Academy. Attendance averages about a dozen each session. The decision was made to continue this with paid workers rather than with volunteers.
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Call to Action for Education – ACS and BCS
 - A general discussion took place after Vinod asked if it were possible that we could develop a program to help high school students prepare for college. Harriet said she will look into it.

1. ACS
 - a.) Volunteer Coordinator update – Harriet reported that everything is going well.
 - She will begin volunteering in the ACS office
 - Current volunteers at the schools will likely stay throughout the current school year so no need to advertise for volunteers at this time.
 - b.) Musicworks at Hall Fletcher – Sarah reported that 2 people signed up
 - c.) Roots program to begin at Vance in late January. Sarah reported that articles will begin appearing in the *Observer* this month to recruit volunteers for this program.
 - d.) STEAM program at Hall Fletcher on hold due to personnel changes
 2. BCS – Sarah reported:
 - Lunch buddy program at Emma is having good results and will continue
 - OLLI volunteers will no longer be recruited for classroom assistants at Emma
- B. Call to Action for Food Insecurity - MANNA and Asheville Terrace Apartments Pantry
1. MANNA update – Marie reported:
 - All is going well
 - 1 OLLI group has disbanded
 - There are 40-50 people on her list; 30 active; core of 11 are always there
 - There is no need for additional volunteers
 2. Asheville Terrace Apartments Food Pantry update - Kathleen reported:
 - There are 18 current volunteers; she'd like to cap that at 20; she sends email to all at beginning of each month and schedules 5 for each volunteer date
 - The social worker on staff has left and a resident has taken over the responsibility
 - OLLI's role is to support these efforts
 - Sarah asked Kathleen to report the number of hours and people each December and June
- C. Call to Action for Housing and the Homeless
1. Habitat for Humanity update – Vinod reported:
 - A new volunteer has joined the furniture assembly group
 - This group continues its monthly 3-hour volunteer activity at the ReStore, enabling the store to reap greater financial benefit because the donated furniture is assembled (rather than boxed)
 - There are currently 10-12 volunteers; 3 core members
 2. VRQ update – Sarah reported:
 - All is going well; has ~30 volunteers
 - Carol has been asked to chair the Appalachian Sampler Program and will recruit her own replacement on CEC

3. Homeward Bound update – Sarah reported:

- Walt had an injury from a hike
- They've lost a couple of volunteers
- We need to focus the need for more volunteers in upcoming *Observer* listings
- The hope of adding another day each month is on hold until a core of 6 volunteers is reached

V. Marketing

A. Photo availability for articles (Leanna and Sarah have some)

- Sarah reported that Ken's approach is working well; we're getting 1-2 contacts a week
- There are occasionally a few glitches between input and final newsletter
- Our section of the *Observer* is in a different color; stands out; and is consistently in same location every week
- Sarah asked that:
 - Each CEC member review the publication schedule provided
 - **BY EARLY WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20**, let her know if frequency and timeliness is correct or needs to be changed

VI. Old Business

A. Thank you to those who sent photos to Sarah. Keep it up! It is out of our control if they are not used.

B. CEC and Inclusion Committee will work together when possible. Sarah will be sent their minutes

- We will provide volunteers to any event the Inclusion Committee sponsors
- We will work side-by-side in their efforts
- Kathleen reported that a member at Asheville Terrace Apartments asked if she could take an exercise-type class at OLLI so that she has the skills to teach it to residents on site

VII. New Business

A. Looking ahead for CEC members intentions/look to team members for future leadership

- Sarah has developed a job description for each CEC member
 - She will email to all
 - Please provide her feedback
- Sarah plans to address the Call to Action for Housing and the Homeless at the January New Member Orientation (NMO)
- It was decided to not address the Read to Succeed program at the NMW; that program is welcome to provide materials at the CEC's table at the NMW

Ongoing to do list: LAS Advisory team. Enhance the ways in which Leadership Asheville Seniors provides opportunities for service and leadership and publicize the ways in which the program's graduates find meaningful service opportunities.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m. Next meeting is December 12.