

Civic Engagement Committee Minutes

November 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 PM by Chairperson Sarah Reincke. The following members and guest were present: Sarah Reincke, Ken Cooper, Carol Culler, Vinod Jindal, Carol Lorts, Harriet Zaidberg, Dana Zarr, and Kirk Borland. Carol Lorts recorded the minutes.

The minutes of the October 11, 2016, meeting were approved.

Executive Committee Liaison Report – Kirk updated the CEC on online registration for the winter term, the OLLI craft bazaar and the dates when the Reuter Center would be closed over the winter break. He then discussed the New Member Welcome event scheduled for January 6, 2017, noting that representation from the CEC was needed. Finally, he discussed the member survey that would be sent to OLLI members in January, noting that the CEC could contribute questions for the survey. A discussion ensued.

Call to Action for Education – Harriet reported that over 30 OLLI members were volunteering in Asheville city schools. She then discussed the training opportunities that had been implemented. A discussion ensued.

Dana provided an update regarding volunteer opportunities in Buncombe County schools, noting that some volunteers have dropped out. A discussion ensued.

Sarah discussed an invitation received by OLLI to help develop a mentor program at Woodfin. She explained that there are difficulties with mentor programs in the schools. She asked the committee for its input on this opportunity for OLLI members. A discussion ensued.

Sarah will contact the person in charge of developing the mentor program to get more information.

Call to Action for Food Insecurity – Sarah stated that Marie has reported there are enough MANNA volunteers. She noted that the long-term goal is to increase opportunities in this area.

New Call to Action for Affordable Housing and the Homeless – Carol provided an update, noting that nine people had signed up to volunteer during the November volunteer event. She then discussed an upcoming veterans event and Sarah said she would post information about this event in the newsletter. A discussion ensued about the possibility of a Habitat for Humanity build next spring for OLLI members and UNCA students.

Sarah will work with UNCA to determine the scope and date for a potential OLLI member/UNCA student build.

Marketing – Sarah noted that the website had been updated, but still needed information regarding the call to action for Affordable Housing and the Homeless. She then described the CEC banner, noting that it would be used at various events to generate interest in CEC activities. Next, she called the committee's attention to the CEC ad in the OLLI winter 2017 catalogue. She then asked for ideas to help the Housing call to action gain volunteers. A discussion followed.

Ken will develop copy for the email blasts relating to volunteer opportunities.

OLLI Strategic Plan – Sarah discussed changes to the plan regarding engaging with the UNCA KEY center. A discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the KEY center. Sarah explained that the Chancellor of UNCA has made community engagement a key goal for the University as a whole, which could benefit OLLI in outreach opportunities with the student community. Sarah noted that she would be providing this draft to the Executive Council

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5.25.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Lorts