

NCCCR Reuter Center, Room 205, 4:15 to 6:00

I. **Call to order**, 4:15pm

II. **Member present:** Patti Cameron, Fred Myer, Tom Bushar, Bonnie Habel, Catherine Frank, Judy Mattox, Dave Scherck, Carol Culler, Chuck Rosenblum, Ken Haring, Buck Bragg, and Lee Medart.

III. **Minutes** of 4.10.12 were approved as circulated.

IV. **RSVP**

A. Patti Cameron made a presentation of the purpose, problems and needs of RSVP. RSVP is under the Land of Sky Regional Council and covers 4 counties with two paid staff. She reported that 120 agencies offer 650 jobs. While 700 volunteers are currently participating, this does not cover the need expressed by the agencies such as transporting patients to appointments, in-home respite care, invasive plant clean-up, tutoring children and many others. Patti recounted that the new generation of volunteers are not as interested in direct services, but want to do something more meaningful such as improve management structures, develop new projects, provide training for board members and volunteers, etc. This causes friction with the service agencies. Another item discussed was how to coordinate volunteer efforts with NCCCR and RSVP. Suggestions included a liaison sub-committee to identify and rectify issues, hold dialogue with non-profits and volunteers, restructure LAS to include more leadership training, improve publicity of the urgent need for volunteers as they arise, set monthly time for RSVP to present at NCCCR, catalogue listings, job fair at new member welcome, etc.

B. Fred Myer and Ken Haring volunteered for the Liaison Sub-committee and are looking for more volunteers to improve the coordination between NCCCR and RSVP and possibly Hands On Asheville. They will report at the next meeting.

V. **CEC's role in funding-raising**

As a follow-up to last meeting's Big Idea sub-committee, the issue of the CEC taking on direct funding-raising for non-profits was discussed in further detail. Catherine reported that the Center's Steering Committee ruled on "no outside appeals" in another case and thought it would be difficult to have them approve a fund-raising activity for CEC. She did try to keep the discussion open in case the CEC wanted to approach the Center's Steering Committee with a specific submission. There was much discussion on both sides of the issue.

A. Motion was made that any efforts of the Civic Engagement Committee exclude overt and direct fund-raising. The motion was carried by a majority of the members present.

VI. **Service Learning for Structured Activities**

The committee discussed how to approach activities for both volunteer services and educational opportunities. It was felt that the committee should maintain the core of the College for Seniors, take advantage of RSVP opportunities, provide meaningful activities for small groups of center members and foster a valuable relationship between the college and non-profits. It was generally agreed that a Service-Learning approach would be most applicable for the committee's activities. The committee agreed that hunger/food security and public education were the top 2 priorities that could be addressed first.

A. Motion: The CEC will address Hunger and Food Security as our initial signature projects during the College for Seniors' Fall and Winter terms, 2012-2013. Utilizing a service-learning approach we will offer symposia, including lectures, discussion groups and sharing sessions, focusing on volunteer service projects with small groups of NCCCR members. A second area of concern is public education, which will be the focus during Spring and Summer terms, 2013.

Due to the lack to time, the voting was postponed until the next meeting which would also allow time for absent members to consider the motion.

VII. **Housekeeping**

A. Next meeting May 8, 4:15-6:00, Room 205

B. Agenda topics for next meeting

1. Approve minutes
2. Vote on motion from April 24 meeting
3. Discussion and vote on Mission Statement
 - a. Suggested re-wording from discussion on 4.10: *To support on-going projects, e.g. LAS, RSVP, SHIIP, HandsOn, and to identify, define and develop a sustainable plan of action which addresses signature social issues in Greater Asheville that engages and provides a significant volunteer experience among the NCCCR membership community.*
4. Report from Liaison Sub-committee
5. Discussion on Action Plan for Hunger and Food Security

VIII. **Adjourn**, 6:05

Respectively Submitted,
Carol Culler for Sarah Reincke, Secretary