

Civic Engagement Committee Minutes

3.5.13

OLLI Rm #207

OUR MISSION: *To identify, define and develop a sustainable plan of action which addresses signature social issues in Greater Asheville that engage and provide a significant volunteer experience among the OLLI membership community.*

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine Frank, Michell Bennett (Hands On), Barry Mundt, Laurel Jernigan, Judy Mattox, Sarah Reincke, Chuck Rosenblum, Dave Sherck and Cappy Tosetti
- II. 2.19.13 Minutes approved. Barry M motion and Dave S seconded
- III. Food Research Action council (FRAC) report
 - A. NC rated 10th among top 20 states for food hardship (2012) and Asheville rated 9th MSA among top 25, 2011-2012 most food insecure US city.
 - B. Report discussed.
 - C. SNAP (aka Food Stamps) will be cut in September 2013
- IV. Stories From MANNA – Chuck shared a couple stories from MANNA to continue to put a face on hunger in WNC
- V. APRIL 9TH OLLI CALL TO ACTION
 - A. Speaker Dr. Ameena Batada of UNCA
 - B Topic- What We Know Can Kill Us: Hunger, Obesity, and Policy Gaps in the USA
 - 1.) Dr. Batada's talk will highlight the connections between food insecurity and obesity in the USA and the significant costs to our society. At the heart of the issue is the importance of healthy food over any food, and the role of government and corporate policies to support healthy choices. She will discuss how policies pertaining to school foods, marketing, labeling, and taxation are outdated compared to current nutrition and social sciences, and how we can take action personally and politically to reduce and prevent obesity and improve access to and consumption of healthy foods in our communities.
 - C. Service project is Rainbow In My Tummy <http://www.rainbowinmytummy.com/>
 - 1.) We will test nutritious recipes.
 - 2.) Efforts in motion to secure the kitchen in the Sherrill Center.
 - a.) It is a small space and we will have to schedule more than one session depending on the number of volunteers who sign up.
 - 3.) Rainbow In My Tummy Executive Director will be present at the service project
 - D. PR for April 9th Call To Action
 - 1.) Tom Bushar will take event and service project photos for us including one of Ms. Dr. Batada which will be placed on an easel along with her bio. The easel will be located in the OLLI center by one of the sets of doors
THANK YOU, TOM!
 - 2.) Banner will go back up (date not yet determined) flyers, email blast, facebook, OLLI newsletter

- V. APRIL 9TH OLLI CALL TO ACTION
- D. PR for April 9th Call To Action (cont)
- 2a.) Citizen Times and The Laurel were mentioned. Cappy has contact, Bill Howey, and will reach out to him. Asheville Laurel.
 - 3.) It was mentioned that LAS Alumni should be invited. No one has stepped up to take this assignment.

VI. Future speakers

- A. June 11, 2013 – Emily Jackson of ASAP – Chuck in contact with Ms. Jackson to confirm date and topic.
- 1.) most likely topic will include info about
Project Emma <http://www.coabc.org/health-wellness/project-emma> ,
Growing Mind <http://asapconnections.org/?s=growing+minds>
 - 2.) Service Project to be determined and orchestrated by CEC members.
 - 3.) Ms. Jackson and Michelle Bennett may be helpful in identifying possible projects.
- B. September 10 – Branden Anderson of Waynesville MANNA Share AND Gordon Smith of the Asheville-Buncombe County Food Policy Council. Chuck will confirm
- 1.) The September 10th date will have to change so that it is not on a Tuesday as that is City council meeting day and Mr. Smith must attend
 - 2) Most likely Mr. Anderson's topics will include:
Hearts with Hands <http://heartswithhands.org>
Haywood Hungry Kids supported by the Waynesville Rotary
 - 3.) Mr. Smith's topic will be announced soon
- C. Service Project has not been determined though Mr. Anderson, the Food Policy Council and Michelle Bennett may be helpful in the identification process

VII. Growing CEC (Please look at the chart Catherine made.)

- A. Current CEC sub programs: LAS, Call To Action, SHIIP, RSVP and HANDS ON,
- B. Discussed the benefits of an organization structure change
- 1.) Create a steering committee for CEC where in the sub-committee chairs would meet monthly or bi-monthly to report on programs and to allow time for future planning strategies
 - 2.) This structure would allow the resurrection of the intergenerational computing program, better utilization of RSVP and HANDS ON and the development of an OLLI volunteer opportunity service for our members
 - a.) The roles of RSVP, HANDS ON and the OLLI volunteer service would be clarified as to benefit all three programs
- C. The committee voted to move this idea forward.
- D. Recruiting new members
- 1.) Cappy has agreed to man the CEC table at the New Member Reception on March 22. THANK YOU, CAPPY!
 - 2.) We will also recruit at the Ya'll Serve event in May
 - 3.) We can all help recruit by WORD OF MOUTH. Makes great dinner or party conversation!!

VIII. NEXT MEETING March 19 at 4:15

IX. ADJOURN 5:20 *Thanks everyone!*

Submitted by Sarah Reincke, Secretary