

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 14, 2008

Present: Patti Cameron, Dorothy Schmid, Dave Scherk, Denise Snodgrass, Rebecca Welch, Doug Williams (Chair).

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Chair Doug Williams.

The minutes of the March 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

The Committee reviewed and revised the draft member survey regarding members' interest in volunteering and community service through the Reuter Center. The Chair will send the revisions to Bob Davis for the final version of the survey.

Patti Cameron reported on the spring session of the Smith Barney Intergenerational Computer Mentoring Program completed on March 10, 2008. There were 62 participants, with eighteen wait-listed. Two-thirds of the participants were at or below 200% of the poverty income level, one-third were African American, 24% were LTOP graduates, and two-thirds had previously participated in the program. There was considerable discussion of ways to improve retention of the material and to avoid retraining the same people class after class. One proposal was to focus on fewer topics, such as email, internet usage, and word processing; another was to require more homework and computer practice. Most participants do not have their own computers, but they are available in public libraries and at the Reuter Center's Smith Barney laboratory. Patti also reported that she will be meeting with Ron Manheimer and others from UNCA to discuss diversity and other issues for the next LTOP (Leadership Training for Older Persons) class in the fall.

Denise Snodgrass reported on the planning for the next Leadership Asheville Seniors class in the fall. She proposed, as a new component of the program, a service project for the class, which would reflect NCCCR's mission goal of service to the community. The project would relate to this year's theme for the program, and the entire class would be expected to participate in the project. The idea received very positive support from the Committee.

Mike McCreary could not attend the meeting, but submitted a written report on the Blue Ridge Naturalist program, which included the following items: teachers in Buncombe and surrounding counties will be invited to attend summer classes that offer continuing education units (CEUs); the summer session will offer a series of twenty half-day field trips to build on the popularity of walks and hikes; Mike has contacted the Events Manager of the Grove Park Inn to explore BRN-led programs for Inn guests; and he has applied to host a fund-raising event with the Asheville Affiliates. Mike also reported that he has met (along with Doug Williams) with members of NCCCR's Marketing Committee, resulting in several suggestions for better promotion of the BRN program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.