

**OSHER LIFE LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI) AT UNC ASHEVILLE
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)
MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017**

Committee members present: Carol Culler, Vinod Jindal, Bobbi Laratta, Walt Leginski, Sarah Reincke, Harriet Zaidberg

Others present: Bobbie Rockwell-OSC Liaison

Committee members absent: Marie Bauer, Ken Cooper, Annie Houle, Kathleen Mainardi, Dana Zarr

Others absent: Brandy Bowman-UNCA, Laurel Jernigan-OLLI Staff

- I. Sarah called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. The minutes of the September 11, 2017 meeting were approved with a correction of the meeting's location.
 - A. Sarah asked everyone to welcome Bobbi Laratta, our CEC Secretary.
- II. Executive Committee Liaison report – Bobbie did not make a report as such and rather provided information when necessary.
- III. UNC-Asheville Liaison report – Brandy was not present
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Call to Action for Education – ACS and BCS
 1. ACS
 - a.) Volunteer Coordinator update – Harriet reported:
 - Joshua is leaving ACSF October 27; replacement is Austin Napper, with unknown start date.
 - There are currently 20 OLLI members actively volunteering at ACSF, 7 of which are classroom assistants.
 - There was a brief discussion of the Read-to-Succeed program, which is not part of OLLI volunteers; and Sarah reported that ACSF is handling that program differently this year.
 - Vinod asked Harriett to make sure his name is added to the ACSF volunteer sheet for his work at Asheville Middle School
 - b.) Musicworks at Hall Fletcher (education program of Asheville Symphony) recruiting has begun and will continue. Sarah reported that there has been no response to the recent listing in the *Observer*.
 - c.) We will continue recruiting for classroom assistants
 2. BCS
 - a.) We will continue to push for volunteers at Emma in newsletter
 - b.) Sarah reported that the New Member Welcome recruiting efforts for Emma resulted in 6 volunteers
 - B. Call to Action for Food Insecurity - MANNA and Asheville Terrace Apartments Pantry
 1. MANNA update – Sarah reported that Marie has enough people for current MANNA shifts; it's possible that there could be other types of opportunities at MANNA.
 2. Asheville Terrace Apartments Food Pantry update – Sarah reported that everything is going great and Kathleen has developed a good working relationship with the onsite social worker and all of the residents.
 - C. Call to Action for Housing and the Homeless
 1. Habitat for Humanity update – Vinod reported that 3 people consistently show up for the once-a-month furniture construction session at the Restore. Although he sends a reminder to the ~dozen people on the list of available volunteers, there has been no response and they've indicated they do not want to be removed from the list.
 2. VRQ update – Carol reported they continue to do work in the kitchen preparing food and serving the meals to the veterans. The same 5-7 people show up each time, and others on the list have asked to remain on the list. The latest report: 60 hours in August and 36 hours in September) for a total of 96 volunteer hours.

3. Homeward Bound update – Walt reported that the OLLI volunteers continue to work at the distribution center 2 days a week. He hopes if more people sign up to volunteer at Homeward Bound that they can add more shifts. A donation drive at OLLI is in the works near the end of January.
4. Steadfast House – Sarah reported that she has called it quits since there has been little response from them after repeated outreach to them.

V. Marketing – There was a discussion revolving around several idea concerning marketing, including

- A. Central location for articles in OLLI Observer has been established but still needs a bit of work.
 - Ken is working on templates for each initiative so that the central location can remain concise and links to further information will be available.
 - Members are clicking on the existing links in the central location article.
 - It was suggested that a testimonial from one of the Habitat for Humanity volunteers or staff be included in the Housing and Homeless template.
 - Walt to include the end of January donation drive in the Housing and Homeless template. Sarah reported that Catherine Frank is open to “collection drives” at OLLI as long as the items are small enough to not cause disorder at OLLI.
 - Sarah will re-send newsletter schedule to each team leader.
 - Ken Cooper will send template to each team leader.
- B. Winter Catalog info has been turned in
- C. A general discussion took place brainstorming how OLLI members (other than those directly involved with volunteering within the CEC) can get involved in various initiatives.
 - Walt has been in contact with Chuck Fink regarding some of the Men’s Wisdom Groups’ interest in doing a “team volunteer” effort.
 - Carol has had a discussion with Mark Threlkeld about his group volunteering at VRQ once a month; she reminded him to let her know the number of hours so she can include in future reports.
 - Carol said that VRQ has onsite classes and maybe some of the groups can teach a class there; e.g., the Poker SIG.
 - It was decided to further explore offering the SIGS volunteer opportunities, but it should be done as a “soft” recruitment.

VI. Old Business

- A. Sarah and Ken will brainstorm about the existing banner.
- B. Sarah urged all team leaders to send her photographs of volunteers in action. She will forward them to Laurel and Leanna so that they will have a library of them, and she (or team leader) can ask to add a particular photo in certain weeks in the *Observer*.

VII. New Business

- A. Sarah asked that each committee member let her know by February 2018 what role s/he wants to play in the year starting July 1, 2018.
- B. Two possible new initiatives
 1. The STEAM Club at Hall Fletcher meets every Tuesday from 2:30-4:00 with hands-on science activities for approximately 65 students grades K-5. We are currently looking for 2-3 volunteers to help assist with projects - we have all of the materials, instructions, etc. We just need more supervision for the students. Sarah is currently writing a grant to help assist with program supply costs.
 2. Roots Foundation program at Vance - General consensus was to focus on the Garden Assistant position only.
 3. It was decided that we will share these opportunities via the *Observer*. Sarah will contact the coordinators at each school to let them know that we will advertise the opportunities to OLLI members but will make no commitment.
- C. Walt wondered if statistics are available for number of homeless children in City and County schools. Carol provided the information on BCS. He wondered if we can add that need to the Housing and Homeless initiative. Sarah said this is a possibility.

- D. Sarah reported that she's been asked to attend the Inclusion Committee meeting on October 20. It will be a brainstorming session to determine if there are ways that all OLLI Committees can work together to help Inclusion Committee reach its goals.
- Carol suggested that it's possible that OLLI could recruit VRQ members to join OLLI.
 - Bobbie pointed out that scholarships that are available if necessary
 - Sarah suggested a possible "sampler" semester (e.g., 2 classes) to get them started.
- E. 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 5:39 p.m.