

## Minutes of Community Engagement Subcommittee

January 13, 2011

Present: Carol Golden, Chair. Alice Small (via phone), Valerie Haynes, Pat Simon, Ryan Lilienthal, Anton Lahnston.

Alice reported on the meeting with the H.S. PTO organization, attended by Carol, Alice and Valerie. A number of good ideas were raised by the group. It was observed by a school board member that if there is consolidation of the two municipalities the school district would no longer have to calculate and explain differing school tax rates for the Borough and Township, which is an annual problem. With respect to the subcommittee's efforts to reach all parts of the Princeton community, it was pointed out that the increasing numbers of Latino members of the community are less likely to vote than other groups. Ryan suggested several groups within the Latino community that we might reach out to, and he will contact Latinos he knows to see if we can schedule a meeting with them.

Another suggestion from the H.S. PTO was that the Commission should set up an info center in the library. If we can arrange this, Ryan suggested a dedicated computer accessing the CGR website as a possibility.

It was noted that all of the schools are in the Township except the High School, which is in the Borough; as a result, the district deals with both police departments and various governmental units of both municipalities.

Valerie suggested that the committee might reach residents through a table at Communiversity - it was agreed we should be represented - Carol will investigate getting a table.

Carol reported on the meeting with Superintendent of the Schools Judy Wilson and the support she has offered for our efforts to meet with the PTO groups. Members of the subcommittee will meet with the School Board on February 22.

Pat reported on the meeting with University officials. Issues discussed were disparities in the interaction with the two police departments and some of the complications engendered by the need to deal with two municipal governments. An example is the Free B bus, jointly funded by the Borough and the University. Because only one municipality was involved, some have questioned whether the route and service level adequately addresses the needs of the whole Princeton community.

Alice reported on the invitation from House 1 of the Community Without Walls group, and her outreach to them to include members of the other houses. The meeting with House 1 is scheduled for March 20.

Pat then reported on his further outreach to providers who could do a survey for the Commission. If the Commission chooses to do a survey, costs appear to be in the \$10,000 - \$15,000 range. Another option would be to conduct focus groups, rather than a survey. After considerable discussion it was decided that Pat would report to the full Commission and that the subcommittee would seek full Commission

approval to continue to explore our options with respect to either a survey or focus groups. It was recognized that CGR's participation is essential, and Anton will discuss this further with Joe Stefko.

Pat Simon left the meeting at this point.

Carol then asked for thoughts on the upcoming meeting with staff members at the Seminary. It was decided to bring copies of the Foreword and Table of Contents to the meeting to inform them of the nature of the Baseline Report. A list of discussion points was also reviewed.

Ryan reported on conversations he had with Pam Hersh of Princeton Medical Center and Claire Jacobus. It was agreed that a meeting with hospital officials was not necessary.

Ryan left the meeting at this point.

The subcommittee also discussed the upcoming meeting with the Princeton Merchants group, and identified the points to make during a brief presentation to them.

Carol asked us to focus on scheduling meetings with the remaining PTO groups (since the meeting, dates have been set with PTOs at all of the schools except Riverside). Valerie asked for input on the list of Township neighborhood associations obtained from Bob Kiser - she will discuss the list with Bob to see which groups are currently active and might have meetings we could ask to attend. Alice will reach out to the Borough to see if they have a comparable list.

It was agreed that Valerie, Alice and Carol will attend the meeting with the Witherspoon Jackson neighborhood on February 5.

With regard to other business groups, Alice will reach out to Nick Hilton, and Carol will contact the Shopping Center Merchants group.

Alice, Ryan and Valerie will meet with the Princeton Clergy Association on February 2.

Anton volunteered to reach out to the PCDO and will investigate whether local Republicans have regular meetings. Other suggestions the subcommittee has received are Church & Dwight and the Italian American Sportsman's Club.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on February 9.

VWH