

Hyde Park Community Circle Meeting Minutes May 9, 2016

Attendees

Present: John and Judy Clark, Everett Dickinson, Deborah Henderson, Teresa Farquharson, Terry MacWilliams and Dan Young.

Financial Update

Deb Henderson provided an update on our finances. We currently have \$6,507.90 in the bank. We have a positive net income from the Think Spring event of \$302.15. This was mostly made possible by the \$500 grant from the VT Community Foundation, sponsorships and donations during the event.

Think Spring Evaluation

Dan mentioned the flowers planted for Think Spring looked good and everyone said they were a good size.

Judy wondered if anyone knew if we could apply for the same grant next year. Deb said she will look into this.

Set up went well. Unfortunately No Strings Marionette forgot the backdrops and had to go back to the office (in Rutland) to get them which delayed the show about an hour. There was a great crowd. Judy said it helped to have her and John sit at the front door. They were able to answer people's questions, etc. It was known that the event was free, but people donated anyway. We had two donation baskets in the room – one at the front door and another at the food table. We raised \$204.11 on cash donations alone.

We need smaller cups to better fit children's hands. The young helpers need to be trained more. They need to spread out to the different craft tables and help the younger kids make the crafts, not just make their own. They should be trained before the event and given specific tasks. Teresa will cover this next year. The helpers are great but need more guidance. Teresa will make a list of the jobs and tasks for this event similar to what we have for the lighting ceremony.

It was suggested that perhaps two circle members could help with the plants and have Derrick Boulay or another guest master gardener be available at a nearby table to answer more time-consuming questions. This would help with the plant table getting too crowded and backed up. We should get Marilyn's feedback as well.

Clean up – again, the helpers need more directed instructions.

Refreshments – We ran out of cheese sticks. Drinks worked out really well. We could have more apple butter sandwiches – could Julie make more and give us a bill or teach others how to make some as well? Maybe we could have had more cucumber sandwiches. Teresa told Rhonda Griswold the theme of the event and Rhonda made treasures in the cupcakes! Very clever. Rhonda also makes butterscotch and caramel sauce which could be helpful for the ice cream social.

**Think Spring
Evaluation
continued**

Rhonda also had a list of other good ideas.

Judy said we should continue to get sponsors (we got \$175 in sponsorships) and try to get another \$500 grant for next year's event.

Pocket Park

Several of us didn't know what a pocket park was, so Teresa looked it up and shared that it is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land. They also may be created as a component of the public space requirement of large building projects. Pocket parks can be urban, suburban or rural, and can be on public or private land. Although they are too small for physical activities, pocket parks provide greenery, a place to sit outdoors, and sometimes a children's playground. They may be created around a monument, historic marker or art project.

We discussed the current plans by the town for a pocket park at the courthouse. Apparently the pocket park discussed in emails will go on the right side of the courthouse (facing the courthouse from the street). HPCC put \$600 aside awhile back for a bench in Hyde Park. Some placement ideas are the head of the rail trail, maybe the French property. The plan was to include a plaque with the names of townspeople who have been especially supportive of the HPCC, e.g. Olney Gilmore, Corella Gray, Stu and Mrs. Schaffner. There is little interest on the circle for giving money towards cement for the pocket park. Judy spoke with Jack Anderson and Greg Paus is now saying they want to use grass instead of cement. They now want shrubbery. We wondered if benches would be needed at the French property. Carol Robertson is the Village General Manager. There is also a Village Improvement Board. It was suggested we meet with Carol Robertson. Teresa will speak with her to set up a meeting. Teresa will also contact Rachel Corkey to get an estimate on a bench. We would like it to be substantial. Prefer a three-person bench.

**News Release
re HPCC on
FPF and N&C**

Teresa would like to have a news release about the HPCC on Front Porch Forum and in the News & Citizen every two weeks or once a month. This might bring about new members.

No one ever saw the news release about the Think Spring event. A picture was published, but it didn't have an article to go with it. We tried to thank the sponsors of the Think Spring event on FPF and it didn't happen.

It was suggested we set up a meeting with the News & Citizen editor to discuss how to get better representation of our events in the paper. How do we get articles, event notices, etc. in the paper? Deb agreed to contact Front Porch Forum to discuss the best ways to communicate HPCC events. Do we have a FPF account for the circle? Should/can the owner of the account be Teresa or would this conflict with her personal FPF account?

**News Release
re HPCC on
FPF and N&C
continued**

Judy recommended including the wording “Please send me a confirmation that you have received this.” with any emails to the newspaper.

We discussed ways to let people know who we are and to invite them to join us. Teresa will ask Susan if she would do a post on FPF.

**Update on Stu
Schaffner**

Judy reported that Stu Schaffner sold his house here in Hyde Park. He is trying to integrate into Boston. He would still like the emails but not as a member any more. John Clark will send him a thank you note for all he has done on the circle.

**Ice Cream
Social
Planning**

Teresa will get needed groceries from Hannaford’s (Hannaford’s donation) if John and Dan give her a grocery list. Suzanne okayed the use of the Governor’s House lawn for the social. It is on July 18 (third Monday in July) this year.

Dan will contact Chauvin’s to see if Hope Grows can be the rain location. Laraway has offered the use of their tent. It is a little more complex to put up than the pop ups. We need to think about how it would fit on the lawn. Deb asked if we could try not to have the sun blaring on any of the tables and volunteers. The cookie table was washed in sun last year.

We would like to have the chairs up closer to the stage. If we set some up, perhaps those who bring their own chairs will follow suit. Last year, it was so hot and sunny, many moved their chairs close to the far right side of the property (near Prospect Street) to take advantage of the shade provided by the side hedge. That was nice for the shade but far from the stage.

Nate Perham and Ted Lambert and Debbie Yacavone will perform this year.

Terry MacWilliams works on the toppings table. Everett Dickinson and Jonathan Henderson would like to be scoopers this year.

We typically get the ice cream from Kingdom Creamery – typically maple, some berry, vanilla and something chocolatey. We need to see what we have available for spoons and bowls. John will take inventory of what we have. He has a huge list of people to contact for cookies. He typically asks 7 – 8 people to make 2 dozen cookies each. John will get the toppings. Dan will do blueberry, rhubarb and butterscotch. Judy brings the strawberry sauce. Everett agreed to try to prepare the chocolate sauce using Teresa’s recipe. We typically also have M & M’s and whipped cream. Dan will do an inventory of signage. The electric notice insert needs to be done for June. We will advertise on FPF – limit the posting to Hyde Park. While it is open to anyone, it is really meant for Hyde Parkers and friends of Hyde Parkers. It is a free event. We typically get 200-300 people. Teresa has a list of volunteers that was updated recently. She wants to capture who wants to do what and try not to use people for every event. Maybe Susan and/or Deirdre Beaupre would contact people on this list to find out how.

**Ice Cream
Social
Planning
continued**

they would like to help and we would maintain a database with this information. Deb currently has a couple of databases for HPCC events which could be expanded to include this information.

Miscellaneous

Judy agreed to work with Deb on applying for a sponsorship/grant from TD Bank for Home Day this year. They have a few different flavors of sponsorships and we should pursue this.

Judy asked who has the extra t-shirts and sweatshirts. Everett needs both. We think Marilyn has them.

Judy passed around the letterhead that some of us designed for HPCC. It met with approval. This will come in handy when requesting donations. Some of the donors require requests on official letterhead. Now we have one!

**Home Day
Planning
Update**

John Clark has engaged “Girls’ Night Out” for \$450. Nate Perham will perform during their break. John will work out determining how best to pay them.

John has talked with ReSource several times. ReSource set up a mini-golf course at an event in Morrisville. They just moved and haven’t committed to this yet. John will try them again.

Judy has contacted Bishop Marshall again and left a message asking to speak with someone about providing old fashioned games.

Amy Olsen, Lanpher Memorial Library librarian has rented two costumes – one is an elephant and one is a pig? The characters cannot ride on a float, but they will walk in the parade. She will also get a grant and get some books to give away. It is the library’s 100th anniversary this year!

Next Meeting

June 20, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lanpher Memorial Library.

**Event
Co-chairs**

Co-chairs for this year’s events are:

Event	Date	Co-chair	Co-chair
Think Spring	3/19	Antonia Kontos	Susan Hayes
Jedidiah Ice Cream Social	7/18	John Clark	Dan Young
Home Day	9/17	Teresa Farquharson	Susan Hayes
Lighting Ceremony	12/2	Teresa Farquharson	Deb Henderson