

**Hyde Park Community Circle Meeting  
October 6, 2016  
Second Congregational Church**

Attendees

Deb Henderson  
Marilyn Zophar  
John Clark  
Judy Clark  
Sue Moore  
Terry MacWilliams  
Teresa Farquharson  
Susan Hayes  
Everett Dickinson  
Dan Young

Review of 2016 Home Day

Organizational template for future Home Days:

- Marilyn created a template for HPHD organized around roles and responsibilities (e.g., expectations for event chair).
- Judy also created a template organized around categories of tasks.
- May be valuable to try and integrate these two organizing templates to create a single document outlining the tasks leading up to Home Day.
- Would be helpful to identify tasks that need attention months in advance of the event such as reaching out to the schools.

How did HPCC members feel Home Day went?

Ratings: (1-not well; 5-very well)

4.8

4.8

5 (Tea tent went very well!)

10 (!)

5

5

5 (Balloon business went well and appreciated not being tied up all afternoon.)

5 (Feel like courthouse lawn was such a great space with renovations.)

4.8 (Need more young people involved. Note that it is easier to make specific requests of people.)

5 (A lot of people attended.)

#### Review of vendor evaluations:

- Fire departments had all positive things to say in their evaluation.
- Hot Tamale felt isolated from other food vendors and suggested concentrating the food vendors in a central location. However, her overall evaluation of the event was positive.
- NEMS had all positive comments.
- No evaluation from Sweet Crunch. (Note that we need to retrieve our sign from Sweet Crunch.)
- Popcorn vendor suggested a greater number of trashcans. Was somewhat difficult to find the trashcans. **Maybe we can request more trashcans from the town in the future? Suggestion to also add the trashcans to the event map.** Rocktoberfest had a dedicated trash tent with space for trash, compost, etc. with a monitor; may be another approach to consider.
- Face painter was not satisfied with communication about the event; had a hard time finding her spot, etc. She did not provide contact information so it was hard to reach her. It all worked out but she felt like she lacked the necessary planning details.

#### Parade and traffic:

- Parade was wonderful!
- Marilyn took responsibility for clean-up after the parade. So much candy! **Too much candy and made such a mess. Let's guard against this next year.**
- John Clark would like to turn the parade over to someone else. Susan and Ryan are willing to help organize the parade in future years; will work with John.
- It was great to have the parade pause so that the Grand Marshal could be acknowledged (and because the Lanphear family had a written a piece he wanted read aloud). Such a wonderful moment when the town clapped in their honor. Only challenge was that the band did not know to start up again afterwards! Something to plan in advance next time.
- It was great to have more floats this year!
- GMTCC float was impressive! Some confusion about whether they would participate but it all worked out in the end.
- Pace of the parade was nice.
- The route of the parade worked well, that it went down to the HPES and back up Main Street. Pedestrian signs were removed so that large floats could fit.
- Was somewhat tricky to have the fire trucks back down the road. **Next year, have the large floats come up through Ten Bends Road in order to avoid this issue. Be sure to communicate this with floats in advance.**
- We put up two "road closed" signs with help from the police. The signs don't necessarily stop traffic but they do warn people that something is happening. Post office road was not closed. Cady's Falls Rd. was also closed. All very

- helpful! Suggestion to add a notice about Hyde Park Home Day to the “road closed” sign to explain the event and welcome people to join!
- Sheriff’s office (3 officers) helped with traffic.
  - VFW did not have its service at the monument this year. It may have contributed to the parade running more smoothly that they only walked in the parade. Suggestion to add a service at the monument as an event on the schedule for the day rather than integrate it into the parade; perhaps in advance of the parade?
  - How did tour of Humvee in the sheriff’s parking lot go? Not sure, no evaluation. It was hard to know that there was an activity there...even though there were signs, it was not readily apparent that you could tour the Humvee.
  - Possibly next year, create a “Touch a Truck” space to include any tractors, fire trucks, ambulances, sheriff’s cars, Humvee, etc.
  - Wagon rides were so popular! Wagon was always packed.
  - HPES involvement next year? Buttons worked really well. Would be good to reach out as early as possible next year to HPES to explore the possibilities for their involvement. Would art teacher be interested in connecting an art project to HPHD? Or possibly Erin, the enrichment teacher? There may also be grades that are focusing on community-based projects that could contribute to HPHD. Or would they want to decorate a float if we provided a trailer?

#### Tea tent:

- Pretty simple once it is organized...but organization is key!
- Setting up and taking down went very smoothly. Have enough people to help.
- Feel like there were more people at the tea tent this year than last.
- People were so surprised and grateful for the tea! (Same positive reaction to the balloon making.)
- HPCC is very organized so it went well.
- Would benefit from having some younger people help with the physical tasks. Suggestion to reach out to the middle/high school to see if students would want to receive community service credit to help with set-up and clean-up. Antonia typically arranges this for “Think Spring” so she may have a suggested contact or approach. Would be really valuable to have an extended crew of folks, outside the HPCC, willing to assist with HPHD.
- Scones and tea were so good! Really brought people together – meaning of community!

#### Balloon table:

- Would benefit from a newer air system; better equipment.
- Everett was disappointed in the quality of the balloons he purchased; they popped too easily. Will check out “Rubber Bubbles” in Barre.
- Would be great to have an assistant for Everett.

- Suggestion to have the HPCC purchase a better pump. Dan has a pump that might be a good fit for Everett's needs; Everett will borrow it and try it.

Children's area:

- Would be better to hire someone next year to be stationed at the kids' area. Perhaps some parents from HPES would be willing to serve in this role?

Overall HPHD recommendations:

- More help is needed to assist with the event overall. Teresa felt like a vendor; was so busy!
- Important to have a HPCC member at the "thank you" table to help explain it to people. This would be another great opportunity to ask for volunteers.
- Suggestion to have a sign-up sheet for people to sign up for shifts for the various volunteer responsibilities.

#### General HPCC Business

- Encouragement from Dan to explore corner of merchants in the Ten Bends Brewery area...in addition to the brewery, there is a glass blower and a large-scale muralist. Exciting to see that part of town take on a cultural flavor.
- \$6109 in the HPCC coffers. Home Day was a net positive.

#### Planning for 2016 Lighting Ceremony

- Deb and Teresa will serve as chairs for lighting ceremony. Chairs will meet to develop a timeline for the planning.
- Note that Deb will be gone on vacation through Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>
- Dan will make up notice and deliver to the town hall by mid-month.
- Teresa and Deb will work together to ensure order forms are in the paper and in the electric notice.

#### Planning for 2017 "Think Spring"

- Antonia has secured the puppet show for next year's "Think Spring" event.