

CITY OF GREENBELT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

PRESENT: ACE Members: Susan Breon, Theresa Bugg, Alla Lake, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Don Rich, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler. Later in the meeting Vijay Kowatha, of ERHS, joined the meeting for a bit.

The meeting was facilitated by Alla Lake as vice chair.

Minutes of June 22, 2010 were accepted as is.

INTRODUCTIONS.

First we meet Bonnie Merryman. Bonnie is a first Grade Teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School and will be the new leader of the ACE Reading Club. This year's club will meet immediately following the school day, the second Tuesday of each month, from 2:15-3:45 PM. With two Master's Degrees (in both Curriculum and Reading), Bonnie brings a great deal of training, experience and enthusiasm to this position.

We then meet our newest ACE member: Susan Breon. Susan is the parent of a seventh grader at Greenbelt Middle School and a long time resident of Greenbelt. Welcome to ACE!

ACE ELECTIONS.

ACE belatedly held their annual elections. Elections usually are held in June. Re-elected as Chair was Jon Gardner. Re-elected as Vice Chair was Alla Lake. Alla was also elected to the position of Treasurer. Congratulations and many thanks for your service.

LABOR DAY PARADE.

Don lets us know that his plans have changed and he will not be in town for the Parade. Dave graciously agrees to be the point person for the Parade. But he needs some help and asks any ACE member around to please join him! Dave took the banner for the gathering point but if we are again going to use the little School Bus Wagon", Jon will have to bring it, especially as it is housed at his home. Alla says the Labor Day Committee has not yet posted the actual location on the parade route for ACE to gather. But she will keep us informed. Wendy gave Dave and Alla the list of attending ACE Award Winners so they can share that info with the Parade announcers.

READING AND SCIENCE CLUBS.

Wendy distributed the year long schedule for the Club meetings. Jacob Tosado will be hosting two Science Clubs a month (3rd Wednesday at Greenbriar Community Center and 3rd Thursday at the Greenbelt Community Center; Bonnie Merryman will be hosting the Reading Club (2nd Tuesday at the SHL ES). All Clubs still need to have assistants

identified. Wendy is trying to get ERHS to select HS students for the Science Clubs and trying to get a University of Maryland student to help with the Reading Club. **If any ACE member has a student they would like to recommend as an assistant, please contact Wendy ASAP. Additionally, ACE members should review the dates on the Club Meeting calendar and let Wendy know which club meetings they can attend as a “host”.**

Wendy reports that Jacob has requested purchasing a camera so that he can take pictures of experiments and use it to help the students learn. It is noted that Jacob sets up his experiments in such a way that they really lend themselves to being videotaped. Wendy will ask Bev if it is possible to arrange that.

In further discussion, ACE agrees to not continue the Newsletter. This decision is in part because of the problems in getting it done, the lack of any feedback indicating that it was being read or used and the associated costs.

GRANT UPDATE. The full Grant Application and its accompanying letter have been emailed out to all ACE members and they have been encouraged to forward this information to all their school principals and parent teacher organizations. Additionally, the grant applications have been put on the ACE Yahoo website and ACE asks Wendy to see if there can be a link on the City Website where interested parties can be referred.

In discussing the Grant Outcome Reports from last year, it is suggested that a form be developed for schools and be sent out with their checks for accepted grants this year. It is thought that Jon would have the necessary info for such a form to quickly create it.

MUSIC FESTIVAL. Dave has already been working with Nicole DeWald on the Artful Afternoon Music Festival for this year. There appears to be some concerns about format. ACE reviews last year and develops some ideas for streamlining the event. Nicole has suggested a Performance Participation Form with clear deadlines for the schools in order to minimize the number of last minute groups and the total number of students involved. Vijay Kowatha, from ERHS, responds to questions about using ERHS and offers to further that discussion with ACE. (He explains that all space use must be approved by Principal McNeill, Ladonna Monaldo is responsible for organizing space. The Auditorium is already spoken for every Sunday for Church events.) It is decided that Dave will extend an invitation to Nicole to attend the September ACE meeting to continue this discussion and to iron out details.

BOE CANDIDATE FORUM. ACE decides to host a candidate Forum for the BOE Candidates between the primary and general elections. They select the date of Thursday, 10/21/10. The event will be in the City Council Room, from 7 PM to 9 PM. We will have a moderator and a time keeper. The format will give the candidates an opportunity for a brief opening and closing statement, for approximately 10 questions and then about 5 questions from audience members (selected by lottery). Wendy will email ACE and City Council to solicit possible questions.

Alla will write the invitation to the candidates, Peggy Higgins and Mark Cook.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP. ACE members are reminded of the Grant Writing

Workshop that will be offered on Thursday, September 9 at the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. City Councilmember Emmett Jordan will be running this workshop and it is free to all participants.

ACE CALENDAR – Please let Wendy know if you are **NOT** able to attend.

Unless noted all meetings will now take place in the Second Floor City Council Room, City Municipal Building.

9/6.....Labor Day Parade

9/28.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 pm

10/21....BOE Candidate Forum: 7-9 PM

10/26....Annual PTA Presidents Mtg (6:30-8 PM); Monthly Mtg (8-9)

11/30....Regular Monthly Mtg (date impacted by Thanksgiving holiday)

December – No Meeting
