

Safe Takoma board meeting

Friday, September 11, 2009, Takoma Park Community Center

Attending: Faith Wheeler, Holly Maassarani, Andy Kelemen, Seth Grimes, Rasheda Abney.

Absent: Clemonce DuVall.

- 1) Andy is resigning as of September 30 from the board "to spend more time with his family."
- 2) The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) conflict resolution program is set for Sept 21-25. Monika Megyesi and Kathryn Liss are on board to facilitate and asked if Rasheda can co-facilitate. Rasheda understands that she couldn't be paid under Safe Takoma's bylaws. Holly is interested in attending. Facilitator pay levels would be the same as for July.

Faith is concerned with the racial dynamic – instructors (white) and attendees, expected to be vast majority black, and reiterated that it is desirable that the event be held at other than an MPD facility, with a mix of participants to include some not connected to the MPD. Seth expressed reservations about Kathryn's not being local and also about presentation-style issues. Rasheda noted concerns about resolution of timing and \$50-bonus expectations in the August DC Coolidge class for the junior counselors. The consensus was to go forward with Kathryn. Holly suggested including others, local, to facilitate parts of the program. Andy stressed agreeing with the MPD on expectations, which included that they will provide food, and deciding whether Safe Takoma will offer a certificate of some type to attendees. Holly talked about helping them see the connection between the training and their jobs and not just their personal lives.

- 3) Regarding DC funding, Faith doesn't know if Takoma public-safety funding has made it into the Washington DC 2010 budget. She thinks we have a strong case for it if it is. Faith can check, probably Monday
- 4) Andy, Seth & Faith voted to appoint Holly and Rasheda to the board.
- 5) Seth mentioned a conversation with Steve Whitney about further programming at Coolidge. Faith noted that she has worked with Steve. Holly is interested in the youth-corps connection; used to work for the Time-Dollars Youth Development Program; interested in restorative justice principles. Seth will contact parties to set up a meeting.
- 6) Seth mentioned need to talk to Renay Johnson at Takoma Park Middle School about peer-mediation. Holly has CRCMC contacts to conduct this if there's money and mentioned a Macro mediation grant. Seth will contact Ms Johnson. Andy mentioned informing and involving Wolfgang Mergner; Holly added Peter Meleney.
- 7) We will explore engaging Ronnie Miller to organize and facilitate the Rites of Passage and/or Ready to Work program, pending determination that we have funds available.
- 8) Regarding an advisory-programming meeting: Seth will suggest October dates and location, possibly Seeker's Church, to board. The board took a quick look at last year's youth programming plan.
- 9) Rasheda will take on the treasurer's job and Holly will consider taking on the secretary's job.