

Better Waverly Community Organization

2015 Annual Plan

Introduction

The Better Waverly Community Organization constitution and bylaws require it to establish an annual plan, presented to the membership at the March general meeting.

For 2015, the work of the Better Waverly Community Organization will be completed by its eight committees. Each committee defines its scope, responsibilities, and goals for the year. Each committee is led by a chairperson. Membership on each committee consists of board members and people from the general membership of BWCO. New members may join committees at any time during the year.

BWCO maintains the following committees:

1. Activities and Events
2. Finance
3. Fundraising
4. Greening
5. Housing, Sanitation, and Code Enforcement
6. Land Use and Architectural Review
7. Safety
8. Youth

Activities and Events

The Activities and Events Committee works to encourage Better Waverly residents to participate in their community. The Activities and Events Committee coordinates BWCO's sponsorship of community events and informs the community through a regular newsletter.

Lead/Contact

Abby Neyenhouse
abby.neyenhouse@gmail.com
(443) 854-1195

Members

Abby, Joe

Responsibilities

- Share information about the BWCO and its activities in a timely manner;
- Implement communications plan (newsgroups, newsletter);
- Encourage resident engagement across the neighborhood;
- Maintain events calendar from other committee groups' activities.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Develop a regular newsletter (funding, timing, delivery)
2. Create online activities calendar
3. Create an outreach plan
4. Welcome new neighbors with welcome packets
5. Look into ways to promote neighborhood news/events offline such as banners/posters/message board in public space.

Events

- WAVESCAPE - Summer 2015, held at the Field
- National Night Out - August 4, 2015

Finance

The Finance Committee assists the BWCO Treasurer in her/his duties, which include budgeting, bookkeeping, and reporting. The Treasurer and Finance Committee ensure that BWCO is kept in good standing with the State of Maryland and the IRS. The Finance Committee works with the Treasurer and the Board to make sure that the BWCO's finances are kept in proper order and that BWCO can make good on its financial obligations.

Lead/Contact

Debra Evans

devans2745@aol.com

Members

Debra Evans, Eleanor Montgomery

Responsibilities

- Draft and present budget at annual meeting.
- Assist treasurer with budgeting, bookkeeping and reporting;
- Pay the organizations bills in a timely manner;
- Report to the Board of Directors and community regularly, and as requested, about the financial health of the BWCO.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Publish an annual report of the BWCO finances

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee raises money to pay for costs required to keep BWCO running as an official non-profit organization. BWCO's committees are strongly encouraged to do their own fundraising to support their projects, programs and events, but the Fundraising Committee is also tasked with raising money that any committee can request to spend.

Lead/Contact

Sonja Merchant-Jones

smerchantj@aol.com

(410) 366-1338

Members

Andy, Sonja

Responsibilities

- Raise funds for the basic operating costs of BWCO.
- Raise funds for additional activities of the organization.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. From a baseline operations budget determine our fundraising needs;
2. Work with other committees to assist in determining fundraising opportunities with their goals and events;
3. Establish a partnership with the Waverly Farmers Market, including maintaining a membership table;
4. Solicit donations from companies and organizations outside of the community;
5. Establish Board of Directors dues to cover basic board functions;
6. Host events to raise funds (e.g. gala, block party, yard sales).

Greening

The Greening Committee works to create and maintain green public spaces in Better Waverly. These include Homestead Harvest, an organic, cooperative community garden located on the 600 block of Homestead Street, and Montpelier Orchard, a fruit and nut orchard on the 900 block of Montpelier Street, and other green spaces in Better Waverly.

Lead/Contact

Andy Timleck

jtimleck@mac.com

Members

Abby, Andy, Cathleen, Sonja, Phil

Responsibilities

- Work with the community to create and maintain green public spaces in Better Waverly;
- Recruit volunteers and raise funds for greening;
- Maintain lot adoption agreements with the City.

Events

- Garden Walking Tour (and Croquet at St. Johns fundraiser)?

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Formally adopt neighborhood green spaces in the name of BWCO;
2. Complete an inventory of green spaces, establishing indicators of need, use, and possible community engagement in those spaces;
3. Reactivate the Youth Sculpture Garden;
4. Replant the Montpelier Orchard and establish a plan for its continued productive use;
5. Submit one Parks and People Foundation grant application in the July/August cycle;
6. Obtain a grass mower and string trimmer;
7. Partner with, and gain expertise from, the members of Homestead Harvest to assist with greening programming, maintenance and planning.

Housing, Sanitation, and Code Enforcement

The Housing, Sanitation, and Code Enforcement Committee works with neighborhood residents, property owners, and City departments to correct health, sanitation, safety and other code violations. The committee addresses nuisances related to property upkeep and works to maintain high community standards.

Lead/Contact

Josh Greenberg

joshua.l.greenberg@gmail.com

Members

Joe, Josh, Phil, Debra

Responsibilities

- Send letters to problem property owners that identify concerns, resources, and actionable items;
- Report and encourage residents to report code violations and violators in Better Waverly;
- Follow up with City administrators and officials on serious violations;
- Coordinate actions to address violations as appropriate.
- Communicate with residents about the importance of code enforcement activities and other means of establishing healthy community standards.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Develop a workflow for addressing problem properties;
2. Identify block contacts through the neighborhood to support identification of violations;

3. Work with Greater Homewood Community Corporation to research opportunities to improve neighborhood properties and raise property values;
4. Organize a code enforcement sweep by the City through our local inspector;
5. Complete a form letter to send to problem property owners and send it to property owners throughout the year;
6. Educate neighbors about the 311 reporting process.

Events

- Mayor's Spring Cleanup - April 2015
- Mayor's Fall Cleanup - October 2015
- Dumpster Days - Spring and Fall 2015

Land Use and Architectural Review

The Land Use and Architectural Review Committee works with property owners and City departments to address how properties in the neighborhood are used. The committee reviews proposals to change the use of a property in accordance with the City's zoning code. The Land Use and Architectural Review Committee also works with property owners and the City to review proposed changes to historic properties within the [Better Waverly Historic District](#).

Lead/Contact

Phil LaCombe
placombe@gmail.com
(413) 648-7445

Members

Dani, Debra, Josh, Judy, Phil

Responsibilities

- Report to the community twice per year about zoning changes and land use concerns;
- Communicate with property owners making zoning requests;
- Identify our area zoning officer and maintain communication with the City Planning Department, Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals, and Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation;
- Review proposed changes to properties within the Better Waverly Historic District.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Develop a workflow for addressing requests;
2. Develop a working relationship with Better Waverly's community planner;
3. Research the application of Baltimore's new vacant properties law;
4. See through the completion of historically-appropriate improvements to at least two properties within the Better Waverly Historic District.

Safety

The Safety Committee also organizes activities within the neighborhood to address public safety. The committee works with law enforcement authorities on community policing, which is a strategy that involves building trust and using problem solving to address public safety issues including crime and fear of crime. The Safety Committee hears safety concerns of residents and attempts to address them in partnership with the Baltimore City Police's Northern District and City Council person.

Lead/Contact

Joe Stewart

joestewart31947@comcast.net

Members

Joe

Responsibilities

- Communicate safety concerns to community members and the Northern District;
- Attend Northern District Community Council meetings and other special crime and safety meetings.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Organize one special "Walking Waverly" event;
2. Fine-tune Better Waverly's police-community partnership.

Youth

The Youth Committee organizes programming for the community's youth. Its activities include [901 Arts](#), a community-based youth arts center that provides a safe, creative, and empowering space for Better Waverly Youth to express themselves and develop as artists and community leaders.

Lead/Contact

Debra Evans

devans2745@aol.com

(410) 467-5164

Members

Dani, Darcia, Debra, Eleanor, Mary, Sarah, Violet

Responsibilities

- Supporting and sustaining 901 Arts, a project of the Youth Committee.

Committee Goals for 2015

1. Officially hire Sarah Tooley as a full-time, non-contractual staff director of 901 Arts.
2. Assist with fundraising, holding a minimum of three fundraising events per year.
3. Bring families and neighbors together to showcase the youth's creations/talents at least three times per year

Events

- 901 Arts Fish Fry fundraiser - September 2015
- 901 Arts Haunted House - October 31, 2015
- Additional fundraising events
- Additional showcase events