

CHipA Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2016

Meeting came to order at 8:30 am.

In attendance: Mindy Beers, Mary Cueter, Sarah Davis, Amy Gollan, Virginie Kanner, Nicole Klau, Missy Russell, Stephanie Slawnik, , Alicia Walker

The meeting opened with a wrap-up of the Fall Harvest Festival. Despite the rain, the event was well-attended, turning out great with many new families included. Ways of integrating new families into the community was discussed, with the possibility of having “new family “tables or new family spots reserved at various tables.

This led the meeting to the issue of new family engagement. An immediate tool would be to extend personal invitations to new moms to the Moms Night Out Event on October 27th. Other ideas presented would be to have new family events as ways to more formally welcome them to the TCH community. Such events could include an adults only mixer as well as a family-friendly outing where some long-time TCH parents and families could also attend. It is hoped a Parent only event could be organized this year before winter arrives.

Fall picnics were also a topic of discussion. There were issues on timing and frequency expressed which resulted in several ideas that could improve the experience for families as well as make the fall schedule less congested. Among the ideas were to possibly cancel picnics for Upper El students or to have combined wing (Elementary, Primary, YCC/Infant) picnics. The idea of combined events was enthusiastically received, including the possibility of scheduling the Elementary picnic during the end of August workweek before school officially begins.

Gala organization is moving along already with the date set for the 1st Friday in May of 2017. This year’s theme is “Cirque de Soliel”-esque. Changes to the auction process include having a small online auction of gift certificates taking place a week before the event while limiting the Silent Auction to physical items. In an effort better integrate the Live Auction into the experience, the organizers are considering aligning the bidding on items with the dinner courses.

The Winter Carnival event, which usually takes place in February, is still in need of a chairperson as last year’s organizing, Sandra Besselsen is unable to do it this year. There was consensus among the attending room parents that shortening the carnival from the current 3 hours to 2 hours would make it more enjoyable for families and easier on volunteers. Jenny Terfehr has expressed interest in assisting the chair, but unable to take on that role.

Missy informed the group that the Holiday Art Market on November 11th and 12th, is shaping up to be another good one this year. Vendor slots have been filled and now the event is in need of volunteers to help in various capacities. That same weekend,

we also have Horizon Book Day downtown on the 12th. Karen Libby is chairing the event this year and is in need of volunteers to help with set-up and with day of assistance. There was also agreement among attendees that Horizon Book Day needed to be better promoted, including improved clarity on how the day worked.

Finally, there was a discussion of the school lunch program. There is concern among parents that the serving sizes as they currently exist, are especially inadequate for Upper Elementary Students. Ideas on ways to address this issue included adding a school provided afternoon snack option, a home provided snack that students could bring on an as needed basis, having larger portions available to the older students, etc. Parents expressed a willingness to pay more for lunches if that meant the students would be getting a more appropriate quantity of food. Missy would be discussing these concerns with Colleen to find out more about what options exist to address this issue.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15, with the next CHiPA Meeting scheduled for November 15th.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alicia Walker.