

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

June 22, 2009

CALL TO PODIUM:

Linda Plummer, President
Friends of Wells Robertson
House, Inc.

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Crystal Carr, Community
Services Director

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
501(c)(3) Update on Current Activities and Future Plans From the Friends of Wells Robertson House, Inc. (FWRH)

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
<p>FWRH was created in 1993 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity. This group functions as the fundraising and development arm for the City's Wells/Robertson House program and is independent of the City. The Board operates as a working Board and is made up of a diverse, dedicated and professional volunteers from the community. The entire Board meets monthly as do three subcommittees to aggressively conduct business, search for new opportunities, and brainstorm ways to enhance and enrich the lives of those who reside in the Wells/Robertson House.</p> <p>The mission of the Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc. is to support, independently and collaboratively, a continuum of prevention and intervention programs and services to reduce chronic addiction and homelessness in the Gaithersburg community. The vision of the Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc. is to help break the cycle of homelessness and addiction within our community while bringing hope, dignity, and purpose to the lives of vulnerable individuals. The primary goals of the Board include: 1) Build an endowment so that the future of the Wells Robertson House is sustained; 2) Promote community awareness on homelessness and a positive image of the program; and, 3) Seek financial and other opportunities to extend and expand services.</p> <p>continued...</p>

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Receive Update

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND continued:

The following are some of successes over the last fiscal year:

- Successfully revamped our board;
- Revisited and revised Bylaws;
- Established a required 'conflict of interest' statement;
- Held a successful Denims & Diamonds Gala Fundraiser (FYI: There are two additional fundraising events scheduled for FY10: *IHOP Night* and *Dogfish Head Alehouse*);
- In the fall of 2008, participated in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk-A-Thon. This year encompassed eight (8) schools with subsidized funding for some students, our benefit was \$55,000;
- Applied and granted a 'bulk permit' postal identification to assist with marketing efforts;
- Updated and revamped Board's website;
- Established a "MOU" between the City of Gaithersburg and FWRH;
- Continued our partnership with Montgomery College in assisting our residents with scholarships to build on their educational careers;
- Applied and approved to be a United Way designated organization;
- Funded \$58,000 in FY09 to the WRH program through the annual allocation; and
- Reviewing the FY10 Annual Allocation is up for a formal vote at the July meeting.

Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc.
Board of Trustees *As of 3/29/09*

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Date</u>
Stanley J. Alster -Secretary Business Consultant Former City Council Member salster1@comcast.net	6/10
Crystal Carr Director, Community Services City of Gaithersburg ccarr@gaithersburgmd.gov	6/12
Patricia Bohrer Green Bohrer Insurance Services patbgreen@hotmail.com	6/09
Craig Holston Pharmacist Wells Robertson Graduate craigholston@yahoo.com	6/09
Robert Hydorn Fitzgerald Auto Malls BobHydorn@comcast.net	6/09
Hon. Sidney Katz Mayor, City of Gaithersburg City of Gaithersburg Representative skatz@gaithersburgmd.gov	6/10
Blanche Keller Retired Former City Council Member bkeller911@comcast.net	6/09
Dr. Julius Persensky Consultant Former City Council Member persen@aol.com	6/10
Linda Plummer- Treasurer ReMax Realty Services lplmp@aol.com	6/11
Dorothy Reitwiesner United Health Group Toto.too@comcast.net	6/10
James E. Savitz – President Village Settlements jesavitz@villagesettlements.com	6/10

Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc.

Board of Trustees As of 3/29/09

continued

Dr Michelle T. Scott 6/10
Montgomery College
Michellet.scott@montgomerycollege.edu

Nancy S. Stevenson 6/10
Business Consultant
nstevenson@stevensongroupinc.com

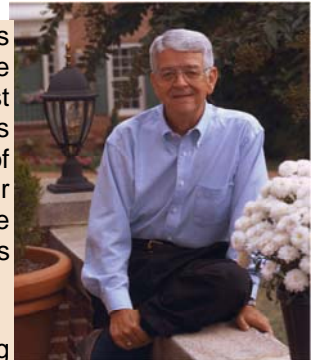
Trustee Emeritus:

Carol Gimmel 12/00
President, CSG Enterprises, Inc.
cgimmel@aol.com

Jane Tascher 12/00
Retired
wendjane4@verizon.net

How Friends of Wells/Robertson House Began

The committee was comprised of a mix of both city residents and business owners who volunteered to serve. The committee report indicated that many of the homeless in the city had ties to the city through family and/or employment. Most were found to be suffering from a combination of addiction to alcohol and/or drugs and a variety of mental illnesses. The committee report included a number of recommendations. One of the more significant recommendations was that Mayor Edward Bohrer and City Council initiate a city program and services to help the homeless. This led to the city hiring a homeless advocate and establishing the Wells Robertson House (facility) and program.



The city quickly recognized that with the initiation of this program and helping homeless individuals that the city would be responsible for ensuring funding for the long term continuity of the program and services including an expected rise in the numbers in need of assistance. Once a homeless individual accepted help and entered the program, there could be no gaps in funding or support.

In addition to inclusion in the city annual budget, funding support was available each year from the county, state and Federal level. This was by no means a stable source of revenue for supplementing the city expenses in operating the program. The largest financial support came from HUD, and was annually subject to changes in their priorities, HUD budget allocation for these funds, and increased competition from across the country for the limited HUD funds available.

Additional sources of funding were available through individual or business donations, and grants from various organizations and foundations. Unfortunately funding from organizations and foundations were generally available to a not for profit or service provider, but not to a local government. In addition, individuals and organizations were more likely to make donations to a not for profit organizations that could also provide the donor with an income tax benefit (charitable contribution).

In a variety of ways, the city of Gaithersburg assisted in the establishment of a not for profit 501 c3 organization (FWRH) that could provide broader opportunities for furthering the financial support of this fledgling program and facility. The FWRH was formally established in 1993 with many members of the original city committee serving as Board members as well as the city's former Director Human Services, Linda Morganstein. The city of Gaithersburg provided FWRH with office space and equipment, meeting space as well as a variety of administrative staff support for approximately 15 years. The city continues to provide meeting space.

There were many drivers that led to the formation of the FWRH. Key were the desire to provide a mechanism for:

- Creating an endowment or financial reserve that could be held and available in the event that the major non city funding sources should substantially diminish or cease to be available. Of primary concern was the possibility of loss of HUD funding.
- Applying for funding and grants for such services and facilities to help the homeless/ reduce homelessness that are available to a not for profit but not a municipal government.
- Attracting individual and business donations that could also benefit the contributor through income tax credits as a charitable contribution.

City of Gaithersburg Wells Robertson House Program FY'10 Annual Allocation
Request to Friends of Wells/Robertson House for \$59,391

1. Part-time Bilingual Relief Counselor position continuance.

This position continues to enhance services to the residents of the WRH, as well as the safety of staff and residents during the evening shift. The staff member is an asset to both residents and the WRH team in that she is excellent with maintaining and creating files, and other administrative duties, etc., as well as being resourceful in areas such as helping with child support information, driver's license re-instatement, and police clearance checks.

Cost - \$20,991 – This is cost request is the same as last year's request.

2. Recovery Month Activities.

This includes the WRH Annual Picnic (i.e., food and festivities, guest speakers, family fun activities, live DJ, basketball tournament, and a graduation ceremony, etc.), Community Education and Outreach Activities, which presents the opportunity to educate the community about addiction and homelessness, forge partnerships, and build support within the community.

Cost - \$2,700 – (\$2,000 to fund annual picnic and related activities)

3. Resident and Alumni Career Development

These funds can help WRH case managers assist residents in fulfilling their Master Plan goals for stable long-term employment, which will enhance their capability of being self-sufficient. This activity addresses the challenges of the scholarship program, such as the lack of having a High School Diploma/GED, need to complete prerequisites in order to take specific career focused classes, as opposed to more singular focused training and certificate/licensing classes (i.e. CDL training and licensure, Food handling, beautician/barbering, mechanical training, health care aids, maintenance, GED classes, etc.). These vocational studies also address the urgent needs for some residents to be employed in a short-term process, and often present opportunities for job placement, and/or on the job training.

Alumni would have to have graduated from the program successfully and be in good standing as per the Clinical Supervisor. A resident would have to be in compliance with their Mater Plan and have resided in the WRH for a minimum of three (3) months.

Cost: \$3,600 – this is an average of \$1,200 per three (3) qualified resident/alumni “annually.”

4. Community Building & Life Skills Development for Residents:

Resident activities, such as camping trips, water activities; canoeing and tubing, family dinners and evenings out such as Dinner Theater, Movie Night, Sport Event, etc. These activities serve as an avenue to help community building, assist residents in developing social skills, and social interaction, peer interaction, which helps to enhance community bonding. These activities also promote healthy recreational and social lifestyles, which have usually been abandoned by residents during their active addictions and homelessness. Helping residents to develop balanced lifestyles is part of the WRH mission. This particular line item would also include the annual Narcotics Anonymous Convention, which is a highlight for the residents. These activities have proven to be a vital strategy for team building as well as the development of social skills for individuals.

Cost: \$5,500 –This averages out to about \$500 per month; although depending on the activities the cost varies contingent on transportation, tickets, food, and other associated expenses. From the total, \$2,000 would be needed for the Narcotics Anonymous Convention.

5. Long Term Treatment Funding for three Individuals,

This activity funds long term treatment for three individuals at Guardenzia Treatment at Park Heights. This facility offers inpatient treat for individuals with issues (including mental health, chronic relapse, post acute withdrawal stemming from types of drugs used such as prescription drugs and new designer drugs) that are not likely to be addressed in traditional 21-day inpatient programs such as Mountain Manor and Avery Road Treatment Programs; this lack of stability renders individuals unprepared for higher levels of services such as transitional housing. This activity has been consistent and successful for the past two years.

Cost \$15,000 – cost for three individual for a 90 day stay at \$5,000 per individual.

6. Continuing Care Educational Program to Support Recovery for WRH.

This program would employ seminars, workshops, and hands on group exercises (i.e. effective parenting, financial literacy and budgeting, anger management, proper breathing, meditation and holistic healing, etc.) wellness programs (i.e. HIV/HIDS, diabetes, high blood pressure, co-occurring disorders, nutrition and healthy meal planning, etc.), and prudent shopping. This activity has been very helpful to our program, community, and individual development. These innovative strategies have yielded numerous positive outcomes in the Human Services field, and especially with a population that is confronted with numerous traumas.

Cost: \$3,500 – These costs would cover outside agency representative fees, facilities, materials, and handouts.

7. Program Renovation and Enhancement Projects

This request is for various renovation and enhancement projects:

- Refurbish the original dinning room tables and benches-\$1,800;
- Replace existing TV/VCR in the conference room with a TV/DVD, that can be used for lectures, presentations and other education and informational activities-\$550;
- New shelving unit in the library- \$600;
- New NA and AA text books and other pertinent recovery literature -\$200; and
- Industrial size pots and pans - \$350.

Costs \$ 3,700

8. Resident Emergency Fund/Urgent Care

We are also requesting that an emergency fund be set up to help residents with urgent needs such as prescriptions, replacing lost or re-instituted driver's license and identification cards, matching funds with other agencies to help with costs for dental and other health related services, etc.

Cost \$400 – this would be a discretionary fund that could be accessed quickly and disbursed via check request or City credit card.

9. Staff Retreat

The two (2) day staff retreat serves as an opportunity to examine what strategies are more or less effective, especially innovative strategies being developed to address an ever-changing customer population. Also, to discuss how to improve the team approach and enhance team bonding as staff need to model- conducive behaviors, that are healthy and productive and as stress free as possible. The retreat can help the team rejuvenate and approach service provisions. The facilitator spends time with the team and helps to identify ways that we can improve our performance and service.

Cost: 15 staff (WRH & HR), a retreat facilitator, and instructors, facility and meals; \$2000

Total Budget Request:

Description	FY' 10
Career Development	\$3,600
Resident Activities	\$5,500
Staff 2-day retreat	\$2,000
Continuing Care Program	\$3,500
Part time Bilingual Counselor	\$22,991
Recovery Month Activities	\$2,700
Long Term Treatment	\$15,000
Urgent Care Fund	\$400
Renovation/Enhancement Fund	\$3,700
Total	\$59,391