The 2015 year brought about considerable change in the committee. The first area was in the membership of the committee. Five new members were brought into the committee resulting in changes of member assignments to best assimilate members into areas they were familiar and comfortable with. The changes included mid-year resignation of committee chairman Tom Elliot and subsequent appointment of Dave Gati as chairman and Bill Behan as Vice-chairman. Tom had done a great job on the committee as well as other assignments within the village and his involvement is missed.

The second area of change was brought about by the transfer of food service out of the committee’s area of responsibility and expansion of committee’s role in Lifestyles area. Committee assignments were redefined to include areas such as Grove Park, Dog Park, and Waypoint. Committee members assigned to these areas are constantly looking for ways to improve and further utilize these areas. A revision to the Recreation Committee Charter covering these changes has been submitted to the POA Board for approval.

A program was implemented to hold a second informal gathering each month to allow members to visit recreation facilities around the village, where the assigned committee member and POA staff persons would provide a tour and discuss problems and opportunities within the area. Most areas have had their first visit and by May all areas will be reviewed. The committee will then decide if visits should be continued and on what frequency. The visits have provided committee members with further knowledge of areas they may not have previously visited in detail.

The committee, led by member Bob Pymn, principal at Jessieville Middle School, recognized that very little programming has been developed and provided for children in the village. Most of our efforts have gone to the adult community, leaving potential opportunities for further youth involvement. A Youth Involvement Survey has been developed for use in conjunction with Survey Monkey to be distributed in March, 2016 to attempt to find those activities residents feel would be beneficial for their children and grandchildren. The committee and staff will review the survey results and look for those programs with most support for which facilities and volunteers could be made available. We look forward to further work in this area next year.

The committee, under direction of member Donna Aylward, continue looking for ways to make the Newcomers Meetings more effective. The program has been adjusted to keep the meeting down to about an hour in length to keep guests interest. One part of that has been the
development of a document provided to each person giving general information about the Village for them to take home rather than covering in detail in the meeting. Donna has also gathered a group of volunteers made up of involved villagers to man the meeting activities rather than depending on only the rec. committee for this activity. One problem area being looked at is a good one but needs attention. The large turnout of newcomers and organization members wishing to discuss their activity has resulted in the Ouachita Room becoming too congested. We are looking for ways to provide more room for attendees, especially with hope for further increases in village growth.

Another area of evaluation is the utilization of the Coronado Community Center and to a lesser degree the Ponce Center. Utilization of these facilities by village organizations has decreased greatly and methods to bring organizations back and/or finding new and different uses for the facilities must be found.

The Recreation committee has been fortunate to work with Stephanie Heffer and her staff. There is no more dedicated group of people working within the Village. Stephanie and her staff have put in countless hours including many of their own developing and running the many new and exciting programs which have been brought to the Village, with even more to come in the future. The committee volunteers where possible, but the staff provides most of the effort.

Submitted by Dave Gati, Chairman