

Metuchen Municipal Alliance
Thursday March 14, 2013

Attendance: Kieran Esposito, Michael Scheller, Irene Morris-Nann, Dorothy Rasmussen, Beatrice Moskowitz, Kathy Liss, Dave Liantonio, Kris Dubon

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Kieran Esposito.
- The February minutes were approved.
- Irene Morris-Nann stated that the NCADD Middlesex presentation on Needs Assessments that was scheduled for the meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled. She handed out sample logic models that will guide us in completing a needs assessment for our own community.
- Dorothy Rasmussen reported that she read a proclamation from Mayor Vahalla declaring “February is Marijuana Awareness Month in Metuchen” at the February 19 Borough Council meeting. Members of the Youth Alliance were at the meeting and accepted the proclamation, which will be kept at the Library near the “Teen Issues” collection which receives support from the Municipal Alliance.
- Dave Liantonio reported that the Magic Show will be scheduled for either Friday April 26 or May 3. He has contracted with the magician, Kevin, from last year. Dave told us that reporter Kathy Chang from the *Sentinel* will be given a different beat, and he is hopeful that this will not affect the amount of coverage that the paper has provided the Committee in the past for the Magic Show and other fundraisers.
- Dave also reported that Metuchen resident Keith O’Brien has approached him about Mr. O’Brien doing a public program for parents about teens/preteens using computers safely, the misuse of technology, cyberbullying, sexting, etc. Dave thought that the Alliance would be a good fit for offering the program. Irene suggested that the Library may want to partner with the Alliance on such a program. Kathy agreed.
- Dave reported that he will reach out to Friendly’s new owner to see if the Alliance could hold National Night Out again in their parking lot in August. He will reach out to the other property owners—Mr. Nann and Mr. McPherson. He will contact the manager of Target for support for the event.
- Three school programs that are supported by the Alliance were discussed: 1. The Committee agreed to support Peer Leadership at MHS at \$2100 for the 2013-2014 year. Kathy will write Ms. LaFauci to confirm this agreement and will ask that we be invited to review part of a training day at MHS in August. Kathy is also looking into the cost of re-certification of the program through the Princeton Leadership Institute and will report back to the Committee. 2. Project Graduation will receive \$1600 for this year, June 2013. Irene said that in the future we may not be able to support this program because it is a one-day event and there is no way to measure long term success in curbing underage drinking. Irene has made this clear to the chair people of Project Graduation. 2. “Footprints for Life” at Campbell School received an excellent review from Kathy and Mort Simpson, the classroom teachers (Mr. LoPresti and Mrs. Sneddon), as well as from Principal Carter. It was agreed that the Alliance would provide \$3,000 for “Footprints,” or

a program like it for 2013-2014. Beatrice wants to speak to Mrs. Carter about another program that would be less expensive and perhaps equally as good. Kathy will arrange a meeting for some time soon after Spring Break, with Mrs. Carter, Beatrice and Kathy to discuss the possibility of a different program at Campbell School.

- Kris Dubon stated that our new Website that she has been working on with Mort and Steve Kisko has gone live and can be accessed through www.metuchennj.org. They would like the Committee to provide feedback and descriptions of programs that are listed on the site. In the future they hope to include minutes and other resources, e.g. the Safe Homes sign up, as well as photos so that the public can better recognize members of the Committee and its events.
- Kris and Irene reported on fundraising. So far we have \$950 from sponsors. The Committee agreed to follow up with each of their potential donors. Kris will put a sponsor form up on the Website.
- New Business: Prom Sign Campaign. Soliciting designs for the Safe Sober Prom signs was discussed. Beatrice will contact Linda Graf, the art teacher at MHS, for getting student art work.