

Metuchen Municipal Alliance Meeting

February 27, 2014

Attendance: Kieran Esposito, Dave Liantonio, Kathy Liss, Tracy Dalfonsi, Morton Simpson, Jackie Gibison, Kris Dubon, Beatrice Moskowitz, Lorraine Colavito, Irene Morris-Nann, Emma Boughton, Angela Yao, Shivangi Manivannan

The meeting began at 7:35 pm.

Kathy Liss reported for the Youth Alliance. Matthew Bellace, a PhD psychologist/motivational speaker/comedian, has agreed to come to Metuchen to give a single presentation of "Getting a Natural High" for \$1000 which will be funded by the Youth Alliance. Bellace has reduced his fee from \$3000 for his usual 3 presentations for schools because he has some dates where he will be near Metuchen and can come on one of those dates. In arranging this, Kathy has been in touch with MHS's SAC Judi Cheung and the Supervisor of Guidance Tiffany Goodson and has copied Principal Peragallo on all emails. Ms. Cheung and Ms. Goodson report that Bellace has received excellent reviews from their colleagues at other NJ schools. At this point, we are just waiting for Mr. Peragallo to see if he can arrange his schedule so that his school can have the performance on one of the three dates that Mr. Bellace has offered.

Dave Liantonio reported from the Police Department that there will be a Civilian Police Academy beginning on March 3 for 13 Monday evenings from 6:30 until 9:30 for Metuchen residents who are at least 18 years old. The program is designed to educate participants about police department procedures, guidelines, responsibilities and demands on personnel. The program will also address topics like the department's organization and structure, recruitment and training, and the roles and responsibilities of various divisions and sections.

Dave has worked with Roula Castanos-Beaton (Middlesex County Division of Addictions and Mental Health Planning) to complete the DEDR grant report for 2013. He has learned from Ms. Castanos-Beaton that the Agenda book can be paid for with DEDR money if every page contains a message concerning heroin use, since that has been identified as the Alliance's focus for next year beginning in July 2014. Also, Dave has learned that the Alliance cannot use DETR funds to pay for Project Graduation in the future, if PG is only a one night event.

Chris Dubon reported that she will have our yearly fundraising letter with envelopes addressed to our past sponsors ready to be mailed out at our March meeting. The committee will look over the list of sponsors to see if anyone feels that they know the sponsor well enough that they can follow up after the letter. The Youth Alliance said that they'd like to bring the Agenda book around to the businesses that most teenagers frequent and ask the businesses for ads. Chris also said that she's willing to take on more responsibility with the Agenda book.

There were no other reports. The next Municipal Alliance meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 13 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

--Submitted by Katherine Liss