

Municipal Alliance Minutes

**Thursday, April 9, 2015
Minutes**

NCADD Presentation of Jason's Message General meeting after presentation

Attendance: Kris Dubon, Shivangi Manivannan, Jackie Gibson, Danielle Mc Mahan, Jodi Kopac, Beatrice Moskowitz, Dave Liantonio, Mort Simpson, Kathy Liss, Carol Volkland, Allison Inerro

Jodi Kopac, Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 7:40pm citing the open public meetings act provisions as required by law. She introduced Linda Surks of the Middlesex County NCADD for a special presentation on "Jason's Message," a program we are funding for the high school this year. Mrs. Surks reviewed some staggering statistics regarding drug abuse focusing on prescription drug deaths and abuse by younger and younger children and, importantly, touching on some programs already in existence today that could help or guide addicts toward a successful recovery. She also presented a film *Opiate Addiction* created by a Metuchen Girl Scout, presenting information and interviewing recovered addicts. The movie theme acknowledged that drug issues can affect all citizens and once it does, it yields damaging results. After a brief question and answer period, Mrs. Surks generously left materials for varied uses, most focusing on avenues for help.

Mrs. Liss thanked the speaker and began the regular agenda meeting:

Kathy Liss, who had been acting-Chairperson, was elected Chairperson of the Municipal Alliance.

Danielle McMahan, a former Alliance member, has been appointed again and was introduced to the committee.

A discussion of the relationship between "the Corporation," formally known as Metuchen Youth & Development, Inc. and the Metuchen Municipal Alliance was led by Dave. MY&D, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was formed to hold tax-exempt donations for the Alliance. The Alliance must fundraise to meet its 25% cash match which is required by the grant received from the State. Monies above and beyond the cash match are also held for the Alliance in the MY & D account and can pay for other Alliance sponsorships like Project Graduation, which cannot be paid for by the grant. There exists some confusion over the title "Metuchen Youth Services Board." This will be clarified at the next meeting.

Due to two retirements, new officers were elected to the Metuchen Youth & Development, Inc.: Kris Dubon, President; Danielle McMahan, Treasurer; and Carol Volkland, Secretary. Dave Liantonio continues as Vice President. The officers are the signers for the bank accounts. Danielle will give a thorough report of the bank account,

including DARE money, which has been separated out, at our next meeting. All monies will be reported regularly.

Now that the officers of the corporation are in place, the fundraising letter, which asks for community support, should go out as soon as possible. Councilwoman Inerro had some suggestions for the letter written by Kathy and Mort. Ms. Inerro will edit the letter and forward it to Kathy.

We were delighted to hear that the Magic Show was successful. A spreadsheet was passed around and given to Danielle showing details of the profit for the Magic Show.

The Patriots tickets have arrived and are available now at To Be Continued, the book store on Main Street. We plan to sell the voucher tickets in the schools as well, and, will look into selling them during the June Bug dates.

Mort Simpson presented plans for a Sober-Que, an activity for recovering addicts and families, substance-free and discussion friendly, which will be held in June (date: TBA) at the Senior Center. First Step Counseling of Metuchen will partner with the Alliance, paying for the food. The Alliance will provide a program through the state grant, prior to the Sober-Que which will be open to the larger community.

Lawn signs have been ordered and will mirror the billboard we had purchased earlier in the year. Signs will be available in a couple weeks to set up around town. Prom and graduation signs will also go out.

The planned dinner honoring our retired members, Mike Garni, Steve Kitsko and Irene Morris-Nann will be scheduled for late summer, a time all three (3) honorees and Civile restaurateur have agreed will work. All other particulars, seating, menu, etc., will remain the same.

The meeting concluded at 9:50 pm.