

Metuchen Municipal Alliance

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Minutes

Attendance: Morton Simpson, Kris Dubon, Donna Jamison, Emma Boughton, Dave Liantonio, Carol Volkland, MaryKay Sessa, Katherine Liss, Lisa Freed, Jodi Kopac, Allison Inserro, Beatrice Moskowitz.

The meeting was brought to order by Katherine Liss at 7:40 pm.

Due to the fact that there were new members present, all in attendance introduced themselves. MaryKay Sessa and Lisa Freed attended their first meeting.

Kathy clarified the difference between the Metuchen Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Board and the corporation entitled Metuchen Youth and Development, Inc.

The Alliance, (Metuchen Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Board), is the full name of the committee. The Alliance receives grant money and is subject to the parameters of the grant. A cash match is required each year as a condition of receiving the grant money. The programs offered this year deal with the current cycle theme of Heroine and Prescription Drug Addiction.

The corporation, (Metuchen Youth and Development, Inc), holds money that comes from fundraising and DARE money. The cash match must come from the corporation. It is a tax exempt depository for donations. Beyond the cash match, the money in the corporation's account can be used for other projects not funded by the grant, like Project Graduation and various programs and items which the grant cannot cover.

The officers of the Metuchen Youth and Development corporation are: President – Kris Dubon, Vice President – Dave Liantonio, Treasurer – Danielle McMahan, and Secretary – Carol Volkland

Treasurer's Report This report was given by Jodi for Danielle, who could not be present. Danielle is scheduled to meet with Steve Kitsko on Saturday, May 23, 2015 to accept the YSB books and any other documentation. She will then become a signer on the account. Danielle has given the Borough the letter of commitment for the cash match portion of the Grant for 2014/2015 cycle of \$3,242. The check will be disbursed to the Borough during the week of May 24, 2015.

New Business

Current Status of the 2014/2015 Grant

There is \$965.00 left to spend from the current grant. All but \$350 is already allocated for supplies, printed materials, and refreshments for community events. It was recommended that the remaining money be used to purchase educational materials to be used for currently planned events as well as future events.

There is \$475.50 to be spent on refreshments for the senior center and library programs

Coming Events

The following people volunteered to be present to introduce the speaker at the scheduled *Jason's Message* programs:

Carol Volkland Thursday, May 28th 2 presentations at MHS 12:30-3

Allison Thursday, May 28th MHS parents 7:30 pm

Kathy or Jodi Friday, June 5th Senior Citizens 11:00 am

Kathy and Lisa Sunday, June 7th Library 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

All should try to attend the Town Talks meeting TBD date in June.

Remember **National Night Out** is Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm in the parking lot at Friendly's. Many volunteers are needed!

The Youth Alliance program will be held on Sunday, June 7th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. It is geared for students in grades 6 – 8. The film, *Opiate Addiction*, produced by a local Girl Scout, will be shown at 1:15 pm, followed by a wheel game with prizes, the film will then be shown a second time at 2:15 pm. Emma reported that the Youth Alliance will finalize the design of the Tee Shirt that will be given out for prizes at that event. Beatrice suggested that the pea symbol be incorporated into the design.

Beatrice also suggested that high school students who are members of the Youth Alliance come to the Edgar Middle School to promote this program. Emma said that it is too late to arrange a visit for this year, but it will be kept in mind for future programs.

Fundraising and Publicity

Kathy and Beatrice are still working on a definite date for the dinner to be held at Civile to honor our retired members.

Mort reported that the logistics of presenting the Sober-Que did not work out so this will be put on hold for a future time.

Jodi reported on the sale of Somerset Patriot tickets. The sales have been slow so far. Members should get the word out to family and friends.

There was some discussion about updating our website.

Reports from Liaisons:

Borough Council - Allison served cake to honor Dave Liantonio who is retiring from the Metuchen Police Dept. and his position as liaison to this body, as well as his office on the corporation, and the Metuchen DARE officer. He will be **greatly** missed.

The parking deck project will begin very soon, people can go to the website: metuchenparking.com which will link you to additional information.

School/ BOE – Jackie was absent this evening. Kathy reported that the Somerset Patriot ticket information went home through the students this week. Information will need to go home to the high school parents for the May 28th evening program.

Police- Dave is retiring. He is training another officer to take his place as liaison to this committee. MaryKay Sessa presented him with a colorful letter signed by all of the students at Moss School. Dave had visited the Kindergarten classes to talk about safety.

The annual fundraising letter has been completed and is ready for distribution. Members are urged to make personal contact with past contributors and to suggest the names of future sponsors.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 pm

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 7:30pm.