

Youth Service Board/Municipal Alliance

January 9, 2014

Minutes

Boughton, Emma**

Colavito, Lorraine

Dubon, Kris

Garni, Mike

Inserro, Allison – council liaison

Kitsko, Steve

Lianotnio, Dave – police representative

Liss, Kathy – media specialist

Manivannan, Shivangi**

McCreary, Mark -- clergy

Moskowitz, Beatrice

Yao, Angela**

Irene Morris-Nann , Municipal Alliance Coordinator

**youth board representatives

--Council liaison Inserro called the meeting to order at 7:34pm, acknowledged the open public meetings act and asked the board for nominations for chair for 2014. Beatrice Moskowitz nominated Kieran Esposito ; seconded by Mike Garni. Unanimous vote. Mrs. Morris-Nann told the committee that Chairman Esposito had urgent business out of State, but did accept the nomination and would return for next month's meeting, Mrs. Moskowitz agreed to serve as chair for the remainder of the meeting. She asked for nominations for treasurer. Mike Garni nominated Steve Kitsko; seconded by Mark McCreary. Mr. Kitsko accepted the position telling the committee he would be able keep monthly reports, but his attendance at meetings would not be monthly because of a new job commitment. Mrs. Moskowitz asked for nominations for recording secretary and the ensuing conversation resulted in a rotating position. Each month another member would record and present the minutes.

--Council liaison Inserro, after presenting her involvement over the years with the many projects of the YSB/MA, reported on the pedestrian safety program presented by ***Flaherty at the senior center.

--Reverend McCreary reminded the committee of the special Martin Luther King Service held at the New Hope Baptist Church on January 19, 2014 at 3:30. This year no luncheon was scheduled so he urged members to attend this special event.

--****Liantonio cited the 10 deaths this month from drug (heroin) overdose; 2 near deaths were here in Metuchen. Dare is running smoothly with the inclusion of St. Francis.

--Mrs. Liss reported that the Youth Alliance was scheduled to meet this month and would discuss creating a new banner for downtown citing the new 911 law for drug reporting.

--Mr. Kitsko reported the very tight budget with a \$1336 deficit for the calendar year. He urged the committee to focus on fund raising activities. It was suggested that each member "promise" \$100+ dollars in ads or direct donation; possible band competition and an arts booklet for sale/advertisements.

--Mrs. Moskowitz introduced discussion regarding the Grant declined by the Borough administration. There was a lengthy, emotional forage into citing the particulars that were known about the grant and the circumstances that resulted in its refusal. With new board members present, there were times when information needed clarity and explanation. The main issue of concern was the signatures of acceptance for the first two (2) grants we had submitted but did not get. The confusion resulted in the refusal now that we had finally been granted the monies. We discussed what uses the monies would have, most importantly, creating a Main Street Hub for drug addiction disease information and conduit for help. The committee decided to immediately create a sub-committee to finalize a time/use contract we could all agree would be instrumental for our success in the upcoming year.

--Mrs. Moskowitz spoke of a chance meeting with Woodbridge Mayor John McCormack and Woodbridge Alliance Chairwoman Arlene ____ during which Mayor McCormack said he was going to two (2) wakes that evening, both of young persons in their early 20's dying of drug overdoses. He cited the need for urgency to "do something quickly!" He suggested we consider working together to come up with effective plans.

Alliance Coordinator Irene Morris-Nann advised the committee that based on the Borough's refusal of the Drug Free Communities Mentoring Grant and the contention of the Borough Administration that they were not interested in a DFC Grant she felt it would be appropriate that she resign the Coordinator position as it was clear to her that vision and that of the Administration were not aligned and that the Mayor should select a leader who shared the vision of the Administration. Mrs. Morris Nann advised she would mail a letter to the Mayor and that the February meeting would be her last in the position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.