

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MARCH 5, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cody Miller at 7:00PM in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Cody Miller led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Patricia Adams, Mary Brown, Kelly Fleming, Cody Miller, Jeanette Remsen

Excused: Cncl. Walter Bryson, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski

Unexcused: Colleen Reitz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections of the submitted minutes of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of February 6, 2012 need to be made. Jeanette Remsen noted that the statement “*Red Ribbon Week – will come from the school line item.*” was incorrect and should have read “*Red Ribbon Week – should come under the school program.*” Also, Jeanette noted that the statement “*...that if a purchase of \$26,025.00 or more is made...*” was incorrect and should have read “*...that if a purchase of \$2,650.00 or more is made...*” Jeanette Remsen made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of February 6, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cody Miller mentioned to the Commission that Sandy Keen, of the Environmental Commission, contacted him. Sandy told Cody that they are looking to create a community vegetable garden for senior citizens and have it named in honor of Sandy (Cassandra) Dilks; she would like to speak with the Municipal Alliance Commission at a future meeting in reference to this garden.

Cody informed the Commission that the Call to Service Summit will be held March 8, 2012 at the Monroe Township Public Library. Cody will not be able to attend, but residents who attend will be informed that there are member vacancies on the Municipal Alliance Commission. Jeanette asked that since Cody cannot attend, if she can attend as Vice-Chairperson; she had attended the Call to Service Summit the year before.

Cody asked the Commission members about their progress of recruitment efforts for new members. No members had successful results in their efforts at this time. Cody would like to create a flier to provide to the Monroe Township Board of Education that can be given to teachers to hand out to students to give to parents or guardians that may have interest in the efforts of the Municipal Alliance Commission to join as a member.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Cody asked the Commission for their approval of this idea; no members were in disapproval. Aileen mentioned that an announcement could be made on Comcast Channel 9 and the township website's Channel 9 announcements section and that she could ask Sherri in Administration to post this; Cody will provide Aileen with information to put on the announcement for recruiting new members to provide to Sherri for Channel 9.

Cody mentioned Kelly being interested in the Municipal Alliance Governor's Council Training. Cody provided information on the training dates and locations; these days and times are conflicts for some members' work and school schedules.

Cody would like to create a brochure for the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission that could be handed out during events. He will provide a copy of it at the next meeting for the members to review and provide suggestions/recommendations of changes. Cody would like these to be available for people to grab at events to read what the Commission does, where the funds go, what services are provided to Monroe Township.

Jeanette Remsen provided the Treasurer's Report:

Jeanette received the Commission's budget; she also received the 2012 Gloucester County Municipal plan. Everything the county had in a line item, the township Business Administrator also had in the same line item; the line items match for 2012.

Jeanette spoke in reference to Red Ribbon Week. She said that in the years past, the Commission had done banners; the schools now have enough banners. Jeanette wondered if the Commission could come up with ideas on what to do or if Mary Brown could do something in the school programs. Cody asked Mary if she had any suggestions. Mary said that since there is only \$1,600.00, it's kind of hard to do a full program for every school for that amount of money. She did have an idea; she thought that maybe through the schools, they could set up a drawing of baskets when a student receives a ticket for wearing a red clothing item or maybe does a drawing or a poem about drugs/alcohol/tobacco awareness, the student gets entered into a drawing of a basket. The Commission could supply a basket(s) for each school and tickets could be drawn to pick out winners for each school; these baskets could include drug/alcohol/tobacco awareness games, Barnes & Noble Bookstore gift cards, etc.; the Commission will come up with ideas for prizes. The monies would be divided into baskets for the (4) elementary schools, the middle school, the high school and St. Mary's School; \$200 in prizes/baskets for each school. Jeanette will call Mary Beth Monroe to ask if this idea is acceptable.

Jeanette said the purchase order in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Project Graduation is done. She will have Project Graduation sign the purchase order and as soon as they can give her a bill for 2012, the check can be cut. The bill for Circus Time Amusements and the bill for Rowan University have not yet been given to Project Graduation. Jeanette explained that because this is a donation, the check can be cut before the event.

Jeanette talked about Senior Awareness. Along with the Seniors Commission, a dinner is usually held in November. She said that a date for the dinner can later be determined.

Jeanette spoke in reference to National Night Out; \$3,150.00 is available. The following is needed out of this budget – rides, pies and watermelons for contests, pony rides, water ice, DJ. Police Explorers will provide the food; Officer Gabbianelli will provide Jeanette the amount for the food ordered from Sam's Club, a check will be cut and can be paid to Sam's Club. Last year, in attendance was the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office,

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, Monroe Township Police Department and the Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management. This event will be held in August and the Commission can start making calls in June to ask them if they can return for 2012. Community Affairs will provide assistance with determining how many/placing the tables in the Pfeiffer Community Center. Donation letters for door prizes will not be mailed out and Salvation Army items may not be available as it was in the past. Mary suggested that Myrna from Salvation Army be contacted for donation items. Children will be given back-sacks. Jeanette mentioned that contests held last year were the pie eating contest, watermelon eating contest and hula hooping contest and asked if the members thought the contests should be changed or have anything else. Mary asked if the contests last year were successful and Jeanette replied that they were. The Commission discussed having an age-limit or 2 different groups between the children and the adults for the contests; no decisions made at this time, will discuss more at a later meeting.

Jeanette suggested that when the Police Department, Ambulance and Fire Departments have their Open Houses, that the Municipal Alliance provide the food from the Community Gathering budget. Mary Brown made a motion that the Municipal Alliance Commission help sponsor, by paying for food such as hot dogs and drinks, to the Monroe Township Police, Ambulance and Fire Open Houses and other township community gathering events in 2012. The motion was seconded by Pat Adams; all in favor. In 2011, the remaining monies had gone to the Monroe Township Parks and Recreation Commission for Oktoberfest. In 2012, if there are remaining monies, it's to go to other community gathering events. Cody would like to know and find out how much was spent in 2011 to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Jeanette talked about the Haunted High School; \$800.00 is available. The monies can go toward candy and can also go toward favors for children ordered through Oriental Trading. She contacted the person in charge of the Haunted High School and informed her that bills will need to be provided to the Municipal Alliance Commission to show where the \$800.00 is being spent.

Jeanette said that she needs to speak with Mary Beth Monroe in reference to the \$3,000.00 for the Anti-Bullying. Jeanette asked Mary if it's for the Middle School; Mary said it's for the Middle School and St. Mary's School, \$1,500.00 for each school.

Jeanette said that DARE has \$7,200.00; she will call Marcella in the Police Department and let her know. What DARE needs to order, they will order and will provide the Municipal Alliance Commission with the bills.

Jeanette mentioned the Ice Cream Social in 2011. She said that it was not successful; not many kids attended and there was a lot of ice cream left-over. Jeanette does not suggest that Community Gathering monies get used in 2012 for an Ice Cream Social.

Cody and Jeanette spoke in regards to an email Cody received from Mary Beth Monroe in reference to the Municipal Alliance Commission Bylaws. Jeanette read aloud the email; Mary Beth asked that all Municipal Alliance Commissions in Gloucester County provide her with their Bylaws, meeting minutes, meeting agendas and/or site visits, schedule of events and she will forward all to the Governor's Council, per their request. The Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission's monthly meeting minutes note all calendar of events; meeting minutes do get provided to Mary Beth every month after Commission approval and will continue to be provided to her.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Cody expressed to the Commission that he is enjoying having this opportunity; he looks forward to a very successful year in recruiting other members and creating documents to hand out to people in reference to the Municipal Alliance Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____