

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
OCTOBER 14, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cody Miller at 7:05pm 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: Shawn Gassler, Cody Miller, Colleen Reitz, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez

Excused: Cncl. Rich DiLucia, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski

Unexcused: Patricia Covington, Kelly Fleming, Tory Fleming

Resigned: Patricia Adams, Mary Brown, Anne Bracarello

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Voting of minutes for the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of June 3, 2013 was not made.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Anticipated guest, Donna Gaudio was not in attendance.

Chairperson Cody Miller noted that there is a vacancy for Parliamentarian and appointment needed to be made. Colleen Reitz made a motion for Jared Valdez to be Parliamentarian. The motion was seconded by Shawn Gassler; all in favor. Jared Valdez is the Parliamentarian for the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission for the remainder of 2013.

Cody mentioned that there is a vacancy for the School Representative and appointment needed to be made. Cody will be a substitute teacher for the Monroe Township Public Schools system, so he felt he could always be readily available to be in contact with the schools and its officials. Cody Miller has appointed himself as the School Representative for the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission for the remainder of 2013.

Jeanette gave the Treasurer's Report:

Jeanette said that \$4,334.98 was spent on National Night Out, which she felt was too much and that less should be spent on food in 2014. There were leftover hot dogs, soft pretzels and water ice. Though, the turnout was lower than expected due to the weather, less will be ordered in 2014 and that food will be given away until it's all gone. Announcements on whether or not the event is being held, due to inclement weather was suggested; next year, the members will discuss on whether or not they will have a rain date for the event.

Instead of buying candy for the Haunted High School, orange glow-in-the-dark bracelets that read "Drug Free Is The Way To Be" were purchased.

Red Ribbon Week with Reggie Dabbs will be alternated between schools each year, due to the cost of his motivational speaking event.

For the Seniors Luncheon, \$1,710.00 is budgeted and \$165.00 in Cash Match is available.

\$600.00 is left for Community Gathering.

D.A.R.E. has \$69.26 left in the budget and \$2,400.00 in Cash Match is available.

\$200.00 is left in Promotional Items.

The monies budgeted for National Night Out and Haunted High School is depleted and the projects are finished for 2013.

Cody informed the members that this year's Seniors Luncheon will also include a prescription drop-off; seniors can bring their old/unused medicine to give to a police officer for proper disposal. The Chief of Police or a police officer will in attendance to speak to the seniors to inform them of the dangers of keeping expired/unused medicine around in their cabinets. The members discussed the date of the luncheon and decided on the date of December 7, 2013 from 12:00pm-3:00pm. There will be no door prizes. Township Deli will be contacted once again for the food.

Cody asked the members in attendance if they received his email with the attachment for the Logic Model; some members were not able to open the attachment. Cody will need to resend as a different file to the members. This Logic Model was created for fiscal grant cycle of July 2014 to June 2019. Data was collected from school representatives and Captain Wiemer of the Monroe Township Police Department by Cody and the results were that the top two drug issues amongst young people in Monroe Township is prescription drug abuse and marijuana usage (the Problem Statement). The Alliance gets excess funding from this program to combat these issues. The Root Cause is that it's becoming more socially acceptable with greater access to, such as at parties. Cody explained to the members that they need to create their Action Plan. If their plan/strategies end up not working, they can approve upon their strategies and try again. Forums and meetings could be held at schools, businesses, parents can be involved with these meetings. Colleen suggested after-school activities in the community. Cody asked members to come up with ideas on how they can combat the issues of prescription drug usage and marijuana usage amongst young people in Monroe Township or to suggest programs other communities have used and have had success with. Jeanette asked where these monies come from; the monies come from the State of New Jersey and should not be affecting the yearly budget of the Alliance. Cody would also like the Mission Statement to be revised for the Commission, which defines what they do as a Commission and also create a Vision Statement that would define what they will strive to do as a Commission. The homework of the Alliance members is to come up with ideas/suggestions for an Action Plan, Mission Statement and Vision Statement to bring forward at the next meeting.

There are four vacancies on the Municipal Alliance Commission. Jeanette Remsen's membership term expiration is December 31, 2013. An announcement was made on Channel 9 and the township website, seeking new members.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeanette Remsen made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of October 14, 2013. The motion was seconded by Colleen Reitz; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 7:00pm; this is a Special Meeting. The Regular Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2013 has been cancelled.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of October 14, 2013 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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