

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MARCH 4, 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: Anne Bracarello, Mary Brown, Patricia Covington, Kelly Fleming (arrived 7:20pm), Shawn Gassler, Cody Miller, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez, Rebecca VanDexter, Cncl. Rich DiLucia (left for a meeting at 8:30pm)

Excused: Patricia Adams, Colleen Reitz, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski, Secretary Aileen Wojciechowski

Unexcused: Tory Fleming

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeanette Remsen suggested having the meeting minutes emailed “earlier” (no particular day was specified), so she can read them at work before the day of the meeting; no motion or vote taken on her suggestion. Jeanette Remsen made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of February 4, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Cody Miller spoke in reference to Reggie Dabbs. Jeanette Remsen read aloud an email from Colleen Reitz, noting that Colleen had spoken with the organization about Reggie Dabbs, which she then called Jeanette about. Colleen mentioned that the organization said the charge was for one day, not for a few assemblies. She also mentioned that her idea, if he is booked, that National Night Out Against Crime would be the best night to have him; Jeanette disagreed. Cody said that he was in attendance of a meeting with Paul Deal and Jimmie Collins. Mr. Deal and Mr. Collins had been in discussions with Mary Beth Monroe and already have a date set in December. Cody said that the monies would come from one of the Commission’s accounts. Jeanette said that a Steered Straight program is booked in December for the high school, so it needs to be taken care of which school(s) Reggie would be attending; Cody will confirm with Mary Beth, but he believes it’s the middle school that is booked with Reggie Dabbs. He will also find out if Reggie conducts these programs for elementary school students; more will be discussed at next meeting. Jeanette asked if the price was still \$3,600.00; Cody reiterated that he will get back into contact with Mary Beth for the details. Cody will send out an email to all the members with the detail and also a reminder for the training on April 30th at 5:30pm with the County at Auletto’s Caterers; Jeanette asked when the members need to RSVP by and Cody said it may be by April 1st. Cody mentioned that at last year’s training, GCIT put on a performance that showed alcoholism issues and other issues teenagers are dealing with; it was very emotional and informative. Cody asked the members who would be able to attend; Mary Brown, Rebecca VanDexter, Jared Valdez said they may be able to attend.

Cody spoke in reference to Strategic Prevention Framework. Cody explained that the State would like to see more data-driven results that the Commission and County would collect data from the Police Department/ER intake and would see what the core issues of the problems youth are facing in Monroe Township. For example, the Commission would collect the data from the Police Department, determine what the root cause or issue is, like maybe alcohol abuse or prescription abuse; a problem statement would then be formulated, from crime reports from Police Department and asking people of the community. The root cause of the problem would be broken down and the Commission would figure out why there's such a problem, take a look at local conditions on why it's happening here and then there would be an intervention process, meaning that the Commission would divert their attention to one major issue in Monroe Township that is facing children. Cody is in favor of this program, because results will be seen and monies can be spent on programs to help with the main issue. This would be on for the year and results could be seen by the end of the year of whether or not this has helped the issue. Cody asked the members' thoughts. Jeanette said she needs to know more about it, asking where the money is coming from, how monies are allotted from each set line item. Anne Bracarello said she is concerned because in the past, the Commission has tried contacting and receiving data from schools, but was never given the data. Cody said that they've given them the tools, to try to collect the data, the question being are they going to be willing to do it. Cody has a fairly decent relationship with the Principal of the high school and will probably be able to receive the information they need. Cody hasn't received the full training yet, but may find out that the schools may have to give this information, not personal information though like students' names. Jeanette feels the schools and Police Department will cooperate and if not, they will address the issues at that time. Cody informed the members that this will be a slow transition and he will make sure to start collecting the data now. Cody said Chairpersons of the Commissions were mandated to attend, otherwise funding would probably be affected. He feels that the State is looking for a more sustainable program to find results, and that the days of spending money just to spend it is over. Jared Valdez asked Cody if he is crunching the data for them or collecting the data to send to them and then they're telling the Commission what the problem is. Cody thinks they're allowing this to be an internal process and that the Commission would be working in conjunction with the County and Mary Beth. Jared asked if they would pick the one core issue and focus all their resources on that issue; Cody replied that whatever the main issue is, that would be the one core issue and then divert their resources to that issue. Cody is sure that there will still be monies available for other issues, but need to focus on Monroe Township's core issue. If the Commission was to go out to any events in the township, they would be able to have information on these issues. Jared asked if the Commission gets to pick the solution to the issue how they feel is best; Cody said they will be working in coordination with the County. Jared asked what would happen if they didn't receive results from the work they do with the program, would funding be cut; Cody said that was not discussed during training and training is not finished. Kelly Fleming asked if this all goes back to when they were discussing about a year ago, the State wanting to run the Alliance program instead of the Municipalities. Jeanette and Cody said they didn't think this has to do with that matter. Cody wanted to mention this Strategic Prevention Framework to the members and when he receives more information and learns more about it, he will inform the members.

Cody informed the members that Ptl. Ryan Borkowski provided a D.A.R.E. report by email; a copy was given to each member at this time. Ptl. Borkowski reported that St. Mary's D.A.R.E. graduation was held on February 25th and went very well, graduating approximately 60 students. D.A.R.E.'s second semester schedule for the Williamstown Middle School was completed and is slated to begin teaching on March 11th; there are ten classes scheduled and graduation is tentatively set for May 2nd. Ptl. Borkowski will be placing an order for this graduation within the next few weeks, so Jeanette will be receiving an encumbering form. Cody said he will try to attend some of these events. Jeanette noted that in the past, attendance of an Alliance member would be at the graduations. Cody told the members to contact him if they are interested in attending.

Jeanette told the Commission that no one but her is now allowed to access the Commission's budget line items; Marcella in the Police Department has had her access to the Commission's budget removed.

Jeanette gave the Treasurer's Report:

Jeanette said that there are no monies available yet from the township. A purchase order was processed for the Secretary to purchase writing pads and a flash drive, which amounted to \$13.33 and was paid through the Cash Match line item. Cody said that a printer needed to be fixed. Jeanette said that a form is needed from Community Affairs to use the room for National Night Out and the Seniors Luncheon. Jeanette asked the members in attendance who is going to take responsibility of finding someone for pony rides for National Night Out; Cody and Anne confirmed that pony rides will not be available this year. Jeanette said that the pretzels from Philly Pretzel Factory were donated in the past, but the Commission paid for them last year since funds were available; she thinks that more food, pretzels, drinks and water ice may need to be purchased this year, due to the higher attendance they may see this year. Jared questioned Jeanette asking what kind of rides are available for children aged around 5; a blow-up bounce house and slide was available last year. Jeanette said she will give info for vendor to those who would like to help set this vendor for the night; she will not be doing it. Uncle Mike's Water Ice will open after March 21st; Jeanette said someone will have to contact Uncle Mike's. Cody said that he would like a time designated inside the Pfeiffer Community Center to speak to parents and let them know the mission and efforts of the Municipal Alliance Commission. Jeanette asked Kelly if she had any information on a Photo Booth Company. Kelly said the company she contacted said that Monroe Township was too far for them to travel to. She mentioned a Social Living Deal that she saw and asked if the Commission could use that deal; Jeanette said they couldn't, because the deal was a "book now, pay now" deal and the Commission has to pay by purchase order and check. Jeanette said there is a company that Aileen has contacted that charges \$795 for 3 hours or \$695 for 2 hours, but may cost less due to the event being held on a weekday. Jeanette said that it's a business owned by a township employee; Anne Bracarello voted down using that company. Jeanette was asked if the company is in the township; Jeanette said she did not know. Mary Brown said there is a company in Turnersville that charges six hundred-something dollars for 4 hours including delivery/setup; Kelly said she will contact this company and will provide the Commission the information at the next meeting. Jeanette provided Mary with the money amount that is available to be used on the school assemblies for her to keep track of how much money can be used. Mary gave Jeanette a catalog from Positive Promotions for wrapped candies that promoted messages of being drug-free. She suggests that maybe instead of going to Sam's Club to get candy for the Haunted High School, that these candies be ordered promoting the Alliance's message and mission of being drug-free. Rebecca asked about other advertising for National Night Out, because there are residents who do not travel down Main Street to see the banner. She said there are residents she has talked to that didn't know about the event and they do not travel on Main Street. She asked if large signs could be made, like the sports teams have. Cody said they are costly; Rebecca said that her husband owns Dynamic Tint in the township and she said that if the Commission buys the blank sign base, he could make the vinyl lettering/sign to be placed on it. Jeanette said she didn't know if they could purchase a sign like that; Cody mentioned yard signs and Jeanette said she didn't know if the County would allow them to purchase them. Rebecca asked if it could be posted on the schools' marquees. Mary suggested asking Mr. Earling to advertise it in the schools' The Messenger. Cody said he will contact Mr. Earling to have him notify all the schools about posting it on their marquees. Cody asked if there was a flyer made; Jeanette said Aileen has flyers made from the past National Night Out that can be edited and used. Cody noted that the date on the flyer can be changed every year. Jeanette suggested maybe using the A-signs that the Parks and Recreation Commission uses for their events; they are hand-sprayed with spray cans. Some members agreed that they are not pleasing to the eye, but catch attention. Some members mentioned that those signs don't give the township good credit, but the talk by residents of the unpleasing look gives attention. Rebecca said nice ones can be made by Dynamic Tint instead.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Mary Brown made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of March 4, 2013. The motion was seconded by Kelly Fleming; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of March 4, 2013 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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