

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MAY 6, 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: Patricia Adams, Anne Bracarello, Mary Brown, Patricia Covington, Kelly Fleming (arrived 7:08pm), Cody Miller, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez, Cncl. Rich DiLucia, Tory Fleming (arrived 7:08pm)

Excused: Shawn Gassler, Colleen Reitz, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski

Unexcused: Rebecca VanDexter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of March 6, 2013. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Patricia Adams, who was not in attendance of the March meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Cody Miller spoke in reference to “The 15-Minute Child Break”; it’s a multi-media presentation. “The 15-Minute Child Break” is a FREE, interactive, one hour presentation for parents, grandparents and caregivers who are concerned about children (of any age) and substance abuse. This program is in partnership with the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and addresses the influence of media and pop culture, effects of specific drugs, keeping your kids drug-free and strengthening parenting skills. Cody would like to set a date for this to be held after National Night Out, where this information and date could be given out at National Night Out for others to attend. Cody asked if any members were opposed to this suggestion and program; no members opposed. Jeanette suggested posting the information on Channel 9 and the township website.

Cody spoke in reference to the Music Festival on June 1st. The Alliance previously mentioned having a table to hand out Alliance items and water; he asked which members would be able to stay at the table for help, because he, Jeanette and Pat Adams will be helping with the event through the Parks and Recreation Commission. Jared Valdez said he will be at the table for the Economic Development Commission. Patricia Covington will help with the table and Kelly Fleming may also be able to help for a couple of hours. Cody Miller asked for a motion to submit a registration form for the Municipal Alliance Commission to have a table to hand out items and informational brochures at the Monroe Township Music Festival. Jeanette Remsen made a motion, seconded by Patricia Covington; all in favor. Patricia Covington said she had suggestions for informational brochures she could give Cody.

Cody spoke in reference to National Night Out. He asked the members in attendance if any had interest in taking the position of Chair of National Night Out. No member showed interest.

Jeanette gave the Treasurer's Report:

Jeanette said that D.A.R.E.'s budget had \$4,800.00 from the County and \$2,400.00 from Cash Match. Ptl. Borkowski sent her 2 invoices; for Creative Products in the amount of \$2,930.74 and Monograms and More in the amount of \$1,800.00 for t-shirts; leaving a balance of \$69.26 from the County's budget through Municipal Alliance. Jeanette said she would like to inform Ptl. Borkowski that they have \$2,469.26 left in the budget through Municipal Alliance.

Mary Brown asked if the Commission knew yet how much they have left to spend for the school assemblies; Cody will call Mary Beth Monroe in reference to this matter.

The members spoke in reference to National Night Out. Jeanette said she would like the vendor chosen by the members for the photo booth for National Night Out. The two vendors to choose from are About Face Photo Booths and Super Star Entertainment. Both have the same price for the same amount of hours; 2 hours for \$475.00 or 3 hours for \$575.00 with no tax charged. Members wondered if the pictures could have something printed on it, for example, Monroe Township National Night Out 2013. After some discussion, the members agreed to have the photo booth for 3 hours; 6:30pm-9:30pm. Cody Miller asked for a motion to hire a photo booth company for National Night Out. Patricia Adams made a motion to hire About Face Photo Booth, seconded by Mary Brown, opposed by Jared; remaining members in favor. Jeanette said she received a phone call from Coach Greg Wolfe of the Monroe Township Braves Football. They have cancelled their practice of August 1st and will start August 2nd, so that the children and families of the football team can attend the event. Pat Adams asked if Monroe Township Soccer was contacted. Cody said that he spoke with Jim Bonder and president of the organization; no response as of yet. Jeanette mentioned the bounce rides; Anne Bracarello asked for name of company and phone number to contact about prices. Dan Horner charged \$1,075.00 for 2 bounces. Anne will call three companies and get quotes for best price. A motion was made by Mary Brown that three companies be contacted for bounce rides by Anne Bracarello and the company with best price gets hired, seconded by Patricia Adams; all in favor. The company will need to operate from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Different kinds of bounce rides will be chosen according to appropriateness of ages of children; only certain age groups will be allowed on certain rides, so that younger children aren't mixed with older children. Jeanette said that \$2,350.00 is available from the County for National Night out with \$800 from Cash Match. At last year's event, purchased from these monies were soft pretzels, rides, water ice, food for Police Explorers to purchase and DJ, with an estimated \$800.00 leftover which water bottles, pens and other items were purchased and will be given out at the table at National Night Out. Jeanette asked for a member to go to Uncle Mike's to ask for a price for the water ice; Cody will take care of this matter. Uncle Mike's provides the water ice, the cooler, scoopers, cups, spoons and the Alliance members will be serving. Cody asked for a motion that Uncle Mike's water ice be hired for National Night Out. Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Patricia Adams; all in favor. The members spoke in reference to having pony rides. Anne Bracarello made a motion to not have pony rides at National Night Out and to apply that money to safer rides for children, seconded by Mary Brown; all in favor. Jeanette mentioned the Police Explorers, who purchase food to give out at the event; hot dogs, soda, water, chips. She said that Mary Beth needs to be contacted and asked how to purchase food; give a check to Police Explorers to purchase the food at a store or Police Explorer give an invoice to the Alliance and the Alliance pay that invoice. Jeanette said the DJ used for the last three years at National Night Out was Glen Lanzalotti, who charged \$135.00 for the event. Anne Bracarello made a motion to hire Glen Lanzalotti as the DJ; all in favor. Jeanette mentioned contests for the children. Patricia Covington said she was introduced to the Municipal Alliance Commission at last year's National Night Out. She feels that the event needs to be more

interactive in regards to the children that attend. Patricia suggested maybe an American National Night Out Idol, for children in specific age groups to sing with the help of the DJ; she liked the watermelon-eating contest. She suggested more participation of the children, like to fill-out cards with their suggestions of how to prevent use of drugs and alcohol by children. Patricia felt this would help the children realize more of what the event is for and how they can help with the community. Cody appreciated her suggestions and said that the singing contest might not work well due to the vendors in the room where the singing would be held, but agreed to her suggestion of the children's influence. Jeanette said that with maybe something like that, they could tie-in with Red Ribbon Week. Cody said maybe they can have at their table cards for the children to fill-out with their suggestions on how to combat drug/alcohol abuse and purchase a gift card to award to a child. Jeanette said that the prize has to be figured out, how many prizes and how much the prize will be, age groups have to be determined. Mary suggested that when the children give their cards to the Alliance's table, that a member put them in two different containers according to age groups of younger or older and have two winners. Cody would like to try this suggestion this year. Aileen suggested stickers that can be given out that read "Say No To Drugs"; Cody will look for these stickers to purchase. The past contests that have been held were pie-eating, watermelon-eating and hula-hooping contests. Jeanette asked who would like to help with these contests. Aileen said she has helped with these contests the past two years and doesn't mind helping again. The members agreed with removing the pie-eating contest and replacing with something different. Aileen read aloud a list of contests suggested by parents of the community on some other contests. Jeanette said more room will be needed for contests such as races; Kelly suggested some areas to use around the building. Cody mentioned that the Historical Society is interested in getting involved; they would like to have the Ireland-Hofer House open to the public this day and advertise at the event that the Monroe Township history museum is open for tours. Jeanette said there's only a limited amount of tables to put for vendors inside the Pfeiffer Community Center. Aileen had spoken to a member of the Historical Society; they don't necessarily need a table, just signs posted letting everyone know they're open for tours or have a member walking around in historical wardrobe letting people know. The members were very agreeable to the idea of having the Historical Society invited. Cody mentioned to the members another idea to have the children actively involved. He spoke with Aileen who had the idea of a hula-hoop dance performer at the event to interact with the children with their hoop dance performance and help with the hula-hoop contest. The one performer that Aileen has contacted charges \$100 for 45 minutes and \$135 for one hour, but also knows of another performer that can be asked for another price. Jeanette will ask the County to make sure that they can hire for this activity, that any money the Commission spends has to be approved by the County, but Cody feels that there should be no problem with this. He was told by the County that any activity such as this that engages with children and helps to keep children off the streets can be paid for. The members were also very agreeable to this activity at National Night Out. Anne said there's no need to speak with the County if the Cash Match monies are used. Anne said she doesn't see the purpose of having a board of people that vote and make decisions only to be over-ridden by somebody else. She suggested that the hula-hoop performer gets paid from the Cash Match budget. Cody asked for a motion to pay the hula-hoop performer and pay for what price they deem appropriate (Aileen will contact another performer for the most appropriate price/time available) from the Cash Match budget. Kelly Fleming made the motion, seconded by Mary Brown; all in favor. The watermelon contest will be held. Jeanette read aloud a list of vendors/County departments that have attended in the past that will again be invited. Cody spoke with and received the consent of Mary Beth to purchase lawn signs to be placed on properties advertising National Night Out. He will contact businesses for prices and will bring information to the members at the next meeting.

Cody told Anne that he has spoken with Senator Fred Madden and will find out when he is available to discuss the sale of drug paraphernalia and the purchasing of single cigars, also known as "blunts". Anne said that there are students that have written their essay papers in reference to legalization of marijuana,

which explicitly discusses the use of the cigars for marijuana. Cody would like to speak to Senator Madden about not allowing the sale of single cigars, which is inexpensive for teenagers to purchase and use with marijuana. He would also like to discuss the matter of the sale of paraphernalia being located in the front of glass cases in convenient stores.

Mary asked if the prizes for Red Ribbon Week were distributed to the students. Cody said it was taken care of; winners were picked. He needs to go deliver the prizes and invited Mary to go with him to distribute the next day or day after; they will go the next day.

Anne asked if they could get a confirmation on the number of students that were served by D.A.R.E. She is asking because of the amount charged to purchase D.A.R.E. items/trinkets for graduations. Mary said those items are also given out at school fairs.

Jeanette also mentioned that she needs a member to go around during National Night Out with a tablet to get information from each table/vendor; need every person's name that is involved with the event to give to the County for In-Kind monies for report to County.

Kelly mentioned maybe using t-shirts as prizes for contests at National Night Out.

Cody said that there is a problem with the color printer in the Municipal Alliance office that maybe the cartridge had exploded. Aileen said she will ask the IT Department to take a look at it.

Jeanette asked Mary if the program with Reggie Dabbs is coming out of the Anti-Bully budget. Cody said that it is coming out of the school assemblies budget. Cody needs to find out the cost.

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 May 6, 2013. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, June 3, 2013 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of May 6, 2013 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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