



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

ABILITIES COUNCIL

"Embracing the power of 'We' by including everyone"

Corrected Meeting Minutes September 17, 2008

Members present: Robin Turner, Rachael Drucker, Marge Griscti, Ann Brady,
Secretary Nancy Krauss

Meeting commenced at 7:19 pm

Upcoming Events:

Heritage Day:

- The new banner for the Abilities Council was unveiled at the meeting. This banner will be used at Heritage Day and for any other events.
- The Abilities Council brochure and the Abilities Project handout will be available at the table for residents to take home.
- A volunteer sign up sheet for the upcoming Disabilities Awareness Day will be at the table at Heritage Day as well.

2009 Disabilities Awareness Day:

Robin reviewed Task List for the 2009 Disabilities Awareness Day. She shared information about Carteret's Disabilities Awareness Day, a successful event for the past 24 years which is scheduled for March 8, 2009. Robin encourages all members of the committee to attend this event to gain some valuable insights to apply to North Brunswick's event. Some of the information she gleaned from their experiences are:

- The Abilities Council should target local businesses for donations for the event with a series of letters.
 - The first letter should introduce the group, the event, and the goals of both. This would be considered an "awareness" letter and thank the businesses for their support of this effort.
 - The follow up letter should be the solicitation of goods, services or monetary donation to the event. The businesses will be informed that their participation will merit mention in the event program.
 - Robin will forward copies of the letters Carteret uses to Nancy Krauss to enable the group to pattern our correspondence after theirs.

- The Council will reach out to local group homes and organizations which serve the target population for this event. The group will look to all the surrounding communities for participation.
 - Rachael Drucker mentioned Camp Daisy in East Brunswick as a target group.
 - Ann Brady is familiar with many local day programs and will add those to the outreach list.
- A location is needed to host this event. Several suggestions included various school facilities, churches and synagogues in North Brunswick.
 - Glenn Sandor will be asked to reach out to both Nick Pavone (who works at North Brunswick Township High School and is in charge of facilities) as well as Pete Clark (Abilities Council member and Principal of Linwood Middle School) to investigate school facilities.
- Nancy will check with Township sources about any food service establishments with which there are an existing relationship to solicit for donations. She will also check with Township sources to identify the clergy representative who spoke at the September 11th ceremony to see if he is willing to give the invocation at the event.
- Rachael confirmed that the local troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are committed to volunteering at the event.
- Rachael will put a sign up sheet for volunteers in the North Brunswick Township High School Guidance office for the event. She shared that there are many students looking for community service projects and this could be a wonderful opportunity.
- Glenn Sandor had previously indicated he is aware of portrait artist that might be willing to participate. Information to follow.
- Ann will contact the State level committees which deal with various disabilities in an effort to get some of those folks to support and attend the event.
- Robin will be in touch with her contacts at the State level to ask for their support and participation.
- Ann will train the community volunteers for this event. She is willing to tailor the training for the various age groups and particular areas in which the volunteers will be working. It was agreed that the volunteers will benefit from this training so they are prepared for the diverse nature of the challenges facing the target population for the event.

Other Business:

- Pictures from the signing of Stephen's Law in Trenton will be forwarded to Nancy for posting on the Abilities Council web pages.

- Nancy will check with the folks from Channel 15, the public access channel about the tape from the Abilities Council Open House as well as the blurb about the group which runs on the "scroll" to see if it remains accurate or needs additional information.

For the next meeting:

- The menu for the 2009 Disabilities Awareness Day will be decided at the next meeting. Robin will contact Carteret for copies of their menus. The Girl Scouts are slated to hand out half sandwiches to attendees, but other menu items are needed as well.
- The date for the North Brunswick Disabilities Awareness Day will be chosen. The event will be held from noon – 4pm on the date selected. Robin, Ann and Marge will investigate whether other groups which serve the same population are having similar events in the spring so this event does not conflict with those programs. The date will most certainly be following the event in Carteret on March 8, 2009.
- A theme will be chosen for the North Brunswick Disabilities Awareness Day which will be used in all promotional and printed materials related to the event.

The meeting concluded at 8:41 pm

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- The next meeting of the Abilities Council will be **Wednesday, October 22nd 2008 at 7pm** in the *Council meeting room*. The remaining schedule for 2008 is as follows:
 - **Wednesday, November 12th, 2008 at 7pm** in the *Historical Gallery* on the lower level of the Municipal Building. This room is located directly across from the elevator.
 - **Wednesday, December 10th, 2008 at 7pm** in the *Council meeting room*.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Krauss
Secretary
North Brunswick Abilities Council