



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

ABILITIES COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes November 12, 2008

Members present: Robin Turner, Rachael Druker, Debbie Druker, Marge Griscti, Glenn Sandor, Peter Kenny, Councilwoman Rhonda Lyles, Carmel Mangarella

Volunteers present: Anne Brady

Secretary: Nancy Krauss

Meeting commenced at 7:02 pm

1. Membership

Robin Turner has a meeting with Mayor Womack :on Friday, November 14th at which time the terms of the members, attendance requirements for members and some related governance issues will be discussed and clarified. Robin will report back to the group at the next meeting with updates on these issues.

It was suggested that "receipt return" be added to the Secretary's emails to members to ensure delivery. This will be implemented for the next

2. Around Town Projects:

- *Access to Medical Services:*
Anne Brady suggests that Peter Kenny contact her directly as she may be able to facilitate some solutions.
- *OEM Plans:*
Carmel Mangarella noted that Jack McCue is the person that helps to assess the service needs of the elderly population in the Township. Carmel will inform Lou Ann Benson, Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (DPRCS) that the Abilities Council is at their disposal.

Robin reported that Woodbridge's "Operation Safe & Secure" program is highly successful. Lou Ann Benson reportedly reached out to Walter Endler, the Township's OEM officer as well as Jessica Zink, the Township's Senior Activities Supervisor about

this particular item. Glenn Sandor will bring up setting up a registry similar to Woodbridge's at the next OEM meeting. Robin reported that Woodbridge surveyed all the town residents to help identify which residents may need additional assistance in case of an emergency via US Mail which included a prepaid return address envelope to encourage participation. It is undetermined at this time whether this is a process the Township of North Brunswick could undertake. Glenn will set up the meeting with the Woodbridge folks to discuss their program. Robin, Glenn and Pete Clark are the expected attendees.

3. Township Ordinance:

Councilwoman Rhonda Lyles has contacted the Township attorney regarding the proposed changes to the Ordinance. She will follow up on this issue.

4. Upcoming Events:

2009 Disabilities Awareness Day:

- Nancy Krauss will contact Roy Minieri to have the "save the date" information added to the Township's information channel on TV. Additionally, she will format the "save the date" info for posting on the website.
- Members will be given the "introduction letter" and the tri-fold flyers to approach potential donors at the next meeting.
- Glenn will further explore setting up a bank account from which the Abilities Council can conduct it's financial business.
- Carmel has a contact with a hearing-impaired advocacy group. She will contact them to be participants at the event.
- The schools should be approached to see if the special services/special ed departments would like to set up tables at the event as well.
- Chartwell's, the Township caterer, has agreed to donate a staff member for the event. Additionally, they indicated they would be willing to make a donation of food for the program. Debbie Druker will ask Adam at Chartwell's what food they are willing to supply. The menu subcommittee is slated to meet on November 19th and they will discuss all the options.
- Carmel will investigate whether the Senior Center and/or DPRCS wants to have an informational table at the event
- Glenn will contact the Judy Cusumano at the Middlesex County Office of the Disabled to see if they can participate in the event.

- Nancy will compose a letter asking houses of worship to include the event in their bulletins.
- Carmel will ask Wayne Kuberiet, who has agreed to be the mascot for the event, if he has access to a teddy bear costume, or something equally innocuous.
- Debbie Druker will pursue to procurement of a DJ for the event.
- Rachael Druker will mobilize the students at NBTHS to start making "Save the Date" posters.
- Anne Brady and Debbie Druker will coordinate the dates for the training of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and NBTHS student volunteers.
- Debbie Druker will ask the First Aid Squad if they can attend, and if so, if they could bring an ambulance or some piece of equipment to the event.
- Glenn will contact the local volunteer fire companies to see if they can attend the event. He will ask if they have any "giveaways" they might be able to provide the participants.
- The Junior Police Academy is confirmed to attend the event. A major part of their efforts will concentrate on "policing" the stairwells.
- Debbie Druker suggested the committee think of a way to differentiate by sight who is a volunteer from the participants with something like a t-shirt or a hat.
- Marge Griscti volunteered to track which groups are attending, how many tables and chairs they might need and if they need an electrical outlet for their display. The group needs to contact NBTHS to determine what size tables are available before these types of questions for the groups can be asked and answered.
- Debbie will contact High Point Church to see if their pastor will do the invocation.
- Robin and Debbie will go to NBTHS to confirm that the Commons is an appropriate venue for the event.
- Some of the agencies/groups/individuals to be invited:
 - Women's Club – Sheryl Rossmann is the contact
 - Superintendent of Schools Brian Zychowski
 - NBTHS Principal Brian Botschul
 - Jen Amato, writer for the Sentinel
 - Local Churches/Houses of Worship
 - Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - All local group homes
 - Rhonda has a contact in Highland Park which deals with disabilities issues- she will contact them

- Some of the confirmed groups attending the event are:
 - SPAN
 - Family Alliance
 - Rhetts Syndrome

- Some businesses to be contacted are:
 - Shoprite: Robin will contact
 - Costco: Carmel will contact
 - Walmart should also be contacted

- Stanley Levey and Shirley Almieda should be approached to volunteer for the event or to become Committee volunteers, or to share their concerns for which the Abilities Council may be able to assist them.

5. Other Business:

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, March 8th 2009: Carteret's Disabilities Awareness Day

6. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is slated for January 14th, 2009 at 7pm, tentatively in the Council Meeting room. The location will be confirmed as the date draws near.

The meeting concluded at 8:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Krauss
Secretary
North Brunswick Abilities Council