
Access For All – Mahwah Minutes

March 5, 2018

Opening 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Members

Township Appointees & Liaisons

Member	Attended	Absent		Member	Attended	Absent
Jennifer Whalen-Gares	X			Dot McDonough, Human Services		X
Johanna Baccan	X			Denise Shabet, CERT,	X	
Liz Yorio	X			Ben Kezmarski, Board of Ed		X
Gary Glucoft		X		Michele Paz, Councilperson	X	
Sue Brand		X				
Kyra Faison-Gardner	X					
Mike Kelly	X					
Don Minassian		X				
Meg Minassian	X					
Katie Ross		X				
Sue Straffin	X					

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Review and approval of February 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes
The Meeting Minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

3. Officers Report and Business

Denise Shabet, Treasurer

Reported that the Finance Department did not have a record of the \$500.00 donation from Orange and Rockland. **JWG will follow up on this with the Finance Department.**

The Bergen County Citizens Response Team will have training in mid-March. People can go to the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office website to sign up.

Johanna Baccan, Vice Chairperson

Reported that the State was trying to dismantle the Commission of the Blind. She acknowledged and thanked those who submitted letters in support of the Commission and was happy to report that the Commission is to be preserved (see copies of letters attached to Minutes). She also note that the Executive Director of the Commission was let go.

It was also noted that Ride for Life is extending their hours to 8:00 p.m.

Jennifer Whalen Gares, Chairperson

Asked about the Township’s Social Media procedures. MP noted that it is an ongoing process.

We briefly reviewed the procedures for Uber Health. We will learn more about this.

We received feedback on the survey. It was reviewed by the County who thought the survey was good. They also provided us with a copy of the East Rutherford survey which we may want to incorporate some items from their survey such as a request that people provide our commission with any barriers in the municipality that we should be aware of.

4. Old Business

Mahwah Commons Project: Garden Planters

We will coordinate the event with Troops 50 and 58. The event will be on April 28, 2018 and will consist of building three (3) garden planters for residents of Mahwah Commons. Two (2) of the planters will be waist high planters and one (1) will be a low planter, see attached for sample of planters. **The event will start at 9:00 a.m.** We will set up on Friday, April 27, 2018.

We will need volunteers to help set up and to pick up the materials.

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The Boy Scouts will provide all tools and safety equipment (**They may need a miter saw. They will let us know about this**). We will provide the materials consisting of wood and screws. We might also need to provide drills and drill bits for this work. **DS will check to see if Home Depot is a vendor with the Township.**

Our commission should seek donations for soil and seeds. **JWG will approach Secor Farms and meet with them to see if they are interested in donating these supplies and we will provide them with a letter acknowledging their donation should they wish to donate. MM will contact media outlets to see if they would like to cover this story. She will also follow up with Mahwah Commons to coordinate an area for storage of materials prior to the event.**

We reviewed adaptive play equipment. This is offered through state contract and the vendor is Gametime. The estimated cost for adaptive play equipment for swings ranges from \$350.00 to \$478.00. **We are to consider providing a piece of this equipment as part of a fundraiser. We will have to determine what park facilities in the Township could use such equipment.**

We reviewed outlets to provide for our survey. It was discussed that these would be provided at the Library and Houses of Worship and Senior Center in the Township.

5. Fundraisers

Camp Acorn has nine (9) Mahwah residents who attend their camp, five (5) residents receive \$500.00 in support and four (4) residents receive \$800.00 in support. The Committee determined that as a result of a fundraiser, we will look to provide support for Mahwah families attending Camp Acorn. Should we have additional funds, we will look to also provide for an adaptive swing for a park in the Township. **GG is to follow up with a total cost per person attending Camp Acorn.**

6. Fall Open House

KFG suggested that at our Fall Open House we could invite a number of different camps and support services for individuals. The Committee was in general agreement with this idea.

7. Fundraising Activities

MM suggested that as a fundraiser activity, we could have a Taste of Mahwah involving a number of Mahwah businesses where portions of the proceeds will be donated to us. A motion was made and seconded in support of this fundraising activity and unanimously approved. **MJK to contact the Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce to get a list of Mahwah restaurants for consideration. It was determined that this event would try to be held between Mother's Day (May 13th) and Memorial Day (May 28th). JWG will review wording with Quentin Wiest and will look to respond prior to the next meeting. We should send out an e-mail to Committee Members seeking interest in being part of the Committee to be involved in the fundraising. This should be done prior to the next meeting.**

8. Spring Social Event

Ramapo Ridge is having their dance on June 8, 2018. We can then have our Social Event the following day on June 9, 2018. We will need to book a DJ. People were interested in using Scott Rubin. We should look to book the DJ now for the Social Event. A need for security at the event was also noted.

9. Action Item Tracker

Movie Night – We will look to have as a potential Fall event.

Baseball Game – GG is to follow up on that item.

Mahwah Day – Committee Members are to think of themes or ideas for Mahwah Day.

A Winter Social Event was discussed. The Holiday Bowl last year was a success. We plan on having another one in 2018.

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We discussed having a Fall event which would include a barbecue with Mahwah Commons in the Fall. Hopefully using the items planted in the Spring.

Transportation Program- Currently on hold.

10. Amended Ordinance

JWG will provide MJK and DM with a copy of the amended ordinance so we can follow up on our bylaws.

Stigma Free is looking for sponsor for their event and has asked our Commission to support them.

11. Additional Items

We reviewed the possibility of having Soar attend one of our meetings to have them discuss their program with us. It was determined that they may want to come to an Open House to review.

KFG noted that Donna Schifano of St. Paul's is holding a meeting with families with people of disabilities in a few weeks.
KFG will let us know when this is to occur.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2018