

Toms River Mayor's Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities

Meeting Minutes 01/25/11

In Attendance: Fay Wilson, Regina Ferris, William Gaul, Nathalie Soulier, David Velardo, Todd Wilson, Jane Tallman

Guest: Jessica Vance

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm.

The committee members were sworn in by Allison Carlisle, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

New Business

1. Jessica asked if anyone was interested in becoming the Co-chair of the committee. This is not required and at this time and no members chose to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Jessica.
2. Bill was nominated and voted in as the Secretary.
3. Discussed the goals for 2012
 - a. Events – The committee discussed hosting a table at the events held at Toms River. They are the Food Fest, the Chili Fest, and the Ice Cream Festival. The group agreed to attend the Food Fest and the Ice Cream Festival. The committee also agreed to have a basket to raffle at these events.
 - b. Information Fair – The committee had previously discussed joining the Regional Support Council in hosting our Information Fair. The committee discussed this and agreed to hold our own Information Fair as we represent Toms River. Jessica will contact the Regional Support Council to see if we can partner with them for other events. Jessica discussed using Halloween as an incentive for families to come out by offering trick-or-treating at each vendor's table and encouraging the children to come in costume. The committee members agreed. A tentative date is set for October 27, 2012.
 - c. Resource Manual – The resource manual will be updated this year. Sue is working on updating the information in the manual. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

- d. Tri-fold Brochure – Allison volunteered to put together a tri-fold brochure representing the committee. Jessica will follow up with her.
- e. E-Newsletter – The committee discussed how often to put an e-newsletter out. The committee agreed that a minimum of six e-newsletters would be sent out annually. The committee will email Bill notices of events that occur in the area. Bill asked that someone else on the committee learn how to use Constant Contact and participate in the development of the e-newsletter. Jessica will develop the February e-newsletter with Bill to learn how to format it. The constant contact account is up for renewal in three months and there was discussion on how to pay for it. Bill will try to print out a receipt and forward it to Jessica to submit for payment to the Township.
- f. Social Media – Jessica discussed hosting a Facebook page for the committee to further our message and reach more contacts. The committee feels that this may be another avenue to expand our reach and will discuss this further at a future meeting. Fay recommended that Jessica reach out to the Mayor on whether this is permitted.
- g. Hosting a DDD Public Meeting – The committee had previously discussed hosting an event where Dawn Apgar from DDD would speak to the public. Eric Joice had mentioned that he would approach Dawn about this event. Pat will follow up with Eric about this.

Committee Representative Reports

- Fay reported on the Recreation Committee. There is a survey on the Toms River Recreation site asking what the residents are interested in having for recreational activities. Fay recommended that a link to this survey be included in the next e-newsletter. The group discussed how the recreation department could be encouraged to include individuals with developmental disabilities in their programs. The group will also discuss including a survey of recreation needs in an upcoming e-newsletter. Jessica will email Heather and Maureen to discuss ideas on how to develop this and present the information to the committee at a future meeting.

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Regina seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

Submitted: William Gaul