

MINUTES

Toms River Mayor's Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities

April 24, 2019 | 6:31 pm Meeting called to order by Leigh Simpson

In Attendance

Jane Tallmann, Leigh Simpson, Diane Hutton-Rose, Alice Belanger, Gary Weitzen, Debbie Swenson, Jessica Nylen, Keri Britske, Judith Strollo, Chelsea Martin, Patrick Sweeney

Not in Attendance

Veronica Maier, Carolyn Franzoso, Denise Gaetano, Paul Perillo, Deborah O-Chat, Elisa Velazquez, Cindy Conley, Cara Graham, Megan Miller, Vincent Scanelli, Christine Matus, Adam Silversmith, James Barberi

Guest(s)

Adrian Diogo, NJ Health Care Quality Institute, Ann Marie Rebinowitz, Advocate and former member.

Ordinances and Policies

The ordinance written for the committee in 2005 was read through and it was stated there is information that no longer applies. An new ordinance is going to be drafted to send to the mayor's office. The group was encouraged to brainstorm potential policies to recommend to the township.

Events through POAC

The yoga events at the Elks have been extended for another five weeks and a five week series of pound classes have been organized to start at the end of May on Tuesday at East Dover First Aid. A hypothesized \$125 was raised at the dine to donate event for POAC at the Quaker Steak & Lube in Brick on April 16th. Gary started the Toms River library would be a good place to organize Zumba classes.

May Events Flyer

Several events were suggested to be added to the monthly events flyer for May, including the State House rally coming up on May 13th for fair DSP wages. The group discussed transportation challenges for individuals that are unable to make events. Reaching out to the FSO was brought up to provide potential Uber and shuttle services.

ID Campaign and Flagging Houses

A member of the advisory board for the NJ Self-Advocacy Network tried to but was unable to attend the meeting to announce their support and collaboration for the committee's ID campaign to help residents acquire state and county ID. After Gary brought up the topic, the committee collaborated on how to get the word out that residents and get their houses flagged through the police department that could help first responders in emergency situations if an individual with developmental disabilities is involved. The group agreed for it to be our next big project and discussion will continue next meeting.

Ocean County College Certificate Program

Temple Grandin has advocated for the program and was asked if she could provide a letter of recommendation. Right now data is being collected from the school systems in Ocean County to see how many graduates could benefit from such a program. Janet Pope and Leigh Simpson are looking to eventually meet with the Mayor on the topic.

Vendors at Events

Leigh inquired to several future events to be a vendor at. The committee has a booth at the Toms River Food Fest on May 4th. Right now Leigh and Alice are on the subcommittee to attend and represent the committee. Keri stated she could try to get a table for the committee to be represented at the Toms River Police Department open house on May 11th

Healthcare Quality Institute

Adrian Diogo visited to discuss the Mayors Wellness Campaign which is active in 405 towns in New Jersey which gives mayors tools & strategies to improve the overall health of their communities including education, arts, physical fitness, nutrition and the environment. Adrian was asked if he would be interested in potentially meeting with the mayor.

Merchandise

T-shirts, tri-folds, informational flyers and business cards were all purchased through the mayor's office with the committee's budget. Everyone was encouraged to take what they wanted.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm by Leigh Simpson

Next Meeting

May 29th, 6:30 pm, Toms River Town Hall in L. Manuel Hirshblond Room.