



MEDFORD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MEETING

Presented for Approval Wednesday, December 3, 2014

The Council was called to order at 7:06 pm with a quorum and the following 11 members present; Chairman Thomas Corbi, Vice Chairman James Geiger, Beth Portocalis, Paul Celia, James Juliano, Heidi Krihak, Lauren Kochan.(EDC ex-officio), Rev. Joseph Monahan, Bridget O'Hanlon, Colleen Stover, Thomas Wright, and Absent were Deputy Mayor Chuck Watson, Pete Cohen, Steve Conger, Wendy McBrair, Denise Pizoli, and Shawn Ryan, .

MINUTES

The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved. (There was no NSAC meeting in October)

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Chairman Thomas Corbi took the following actions by E O:

Lauren Kochan was officially appointed ex-officio to the NSAC as a representative of the Medford Economic Development Commission.

The resignation from the NSAC of William Stout of the Medford Business Association was accepted. Since MBA had decided not to participate as a member of NSAC, as was stated in a communication from their President Theresa Freidman that she saw no necessity for their involvement, the NSAC will not seek to have Mr. Stout replaced by Council. Furthermore, the seat of the MBA was officially removed with prejudice from the NSAC Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Student Government Day. The committee received a "thank you" note from the participants. Reaction from all in attendance was very favorable and the students also recommended that future student government days include a longer discussion with the Police Chief and that there be an increased emphasis on the history of Medford. The committee offered that greater effort should be made to have the participants actually attend that evening's Town Council meeting.

Senior Citizen Update. Colleen Stover reported that the Seniors were in the final stages of producing their program brochure and that Medford Township Board of Education would be facilitating some, if not all, of the copying. It was noted that the brochure will also be placed on the Medford Township Website. Ms Stover also reported that the local Girl Scout Troop would be collaborating with Seniors to plant a garden around Cranbury Hall.

Web Page Development. Lauren Kochan reported on the continued expansion of the Township's web page and that we would shortly be including the minutes of NSAC meetings on the website. The committee engaged in a general discussion about the expansion of the web page, the use of texting and the gradual repurposing of the NIXEL emergency communication system.

Safe Communities/Clean Communities Initiative. Bridget O'Hanlon and Heidi Krihak indicated that a Shawnee HS student was preparing an outline for the committee to consider as part of the development of the initiative. This would be reviewed at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Faith Based Communities. After an introduction from Chairman Tom Corbi regarding the value of input and involvement from the religious organizations in any successful community, newly appointed NSAC member Reverend Joseph Monahan offered the committee an overview of some of the possible roles that the Faith Based Community might assume as part of its role as a civic institution. Monahan indicated that the key to a successful program requires religious leaders to be connected to civic leaders. As a result of Reverend Monahan's presentation, the committee brainstormed certain issues that might be addressed by such a relationship. It was a wide ranging discussion covering issues such as Domestic Violence, Food in-security, Emergency measures, a Teen Center, and general civic issues such as parks clean-up and young adult engagement with town events and activities.

This discussion will continue at future meetings. Reverend Monahan indicated that he would be feedback from other religious leaders in Medford and will continue to try to develop a consortium of his constituents.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Our next meeting will be December 3, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

James Geiger
Vice Chairman/Acting Secretary