



MEDFORD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 1, 2015 MEETING

Presented for Approval Wednesday, May 6, 2015

The April NSAC meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm with a quorum and the following 14 members and 2 guests present: Chairman Thomas Corbi, Vice-Chairman James Geiger, Executive Secretary Wendy McBair, Medford Township Liaison Beth Portocalis, Mayor Charles Watson, Paul Celia, Peter Cohen, James Juliano, EDC ex-officio Lauren Kochan,, Heidi Krihak, Chief of Police Richard Meder, Colleen Stover, Robert Wagner, and Tom Wright. Members absent were Steven Conger, William Mead, Reverend Joseph Monahan, and Bridget O’Hanlon. Guests in attendance were Deputy Mayor Jeff Beenstock and resident Kevin Sparks.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the February 2015 meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved as submitted with no corrections or revisions. The Chair recognized the excellent job done by Secretary Wendy McBair on the 4 pages of information, considering all of the input from virtually everyone in attendance at the February meeting. Everyone was also reminded that our Agendas and Minutes are regularly posted on the Township website for all see.

OLD BUSINESS

STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT DAYS

Heidi Krihak announced approval by Shawnee High School to participate in the annual Autumn SIG day. A date will be discussed and chosen. She informed the committee that at the recent SIG, the students were most impressed with the visit to the jail. And hopes that the live council meeting can continue to be part of the program. Robert Wagner thought the day was very well done including lots of pizza and even a gluten free meal for one of the students.

Tom Corbi announced that he and Jim Geiger attended a meeting with Dr. Joseph Del Rossi, Superintendent of the Medford School System, and after discussion of specifics, it was decided that the Medford Middle School would participate in the Spring Edition of the SIG day. (See New Business)

NSAC GROWTH AND REPRESENTATION

Mr. Corbi also announced that he continues to add a representatives to NSAC. A representative from the Medford Township School System will be appointed by Mr. Del Rossi. Mr. Corbi suggested that the representative should be an employee and a Medford resident.

SC3 INITIATIVE

The committee discussed the concept of “branding” the Safe Community/Clean Community initiative with an emphasis on something that would engage the community and convey the vision and purpose. “Caring” was the word that seemed to fit well and encompass everything. “Medford Cares” was suggested. James Juliano suggested three sub goals of Integrity, Safety and Cleanliness. If each concept was addressed by a sub-committee, the groups would translate each goal into action, making sure there are measureable metrics in order to compare and quantify successes. Tom Corbi asked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to discuss this with the Township Council to be sure that they agree and would support the goals. Jim Geiger suggested that the Township Council adapt the concept and actually use it. Colleen Stover suggested that Medford Cares applies to everything and does not need to be changed. Peter Cohen suggested a mission statement for the initiative making sure that it ties into *Medford Cares*. Chief Meder developed a mission statement for the police department when he became Chief and will share it with NSAC. Members can read it on the Medford Township website.

The group unanimously decided to create sub-committees to work on several SC3 areas including branding and a mission statement. These efforts and ideas will help to make Medford distinguishable and something different to visitors, as well as new and existing residents. Jim Geiger made a motion to develop these sub-committees. Members volunteering for the "Branding" committee included Jim Juliano, Paul Celia, Pete Cohen with Jim Geiger and Tom Corbi serving as member ex-officio on this and all committees.

Mayor Watson, our Council representative, will review and share these ideas with the other members of the town council and inform us of their ideas and input. This will help NSAC act upon the needs of our community and offer the residents as much support as is possible moving forward.

DRUG ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

According to Beth Portocalis, when many changes occurred in Medford due to the cutbacks in staff and programs, the Drug Alliance Committee was greatly reduced. She announced this at the February meeting and asked that NSAC pick up this important program which is supported by Shawnee High School staff, clubs, and students, Chief Meder and the police department, and a grant of \$12,800 from the State of NJ through Burlington County to be used for program development. The original representatives on that former team included Beth, Chief Meder, and Heidi Krihak. The high school presently has a motto to live by which is "Living without Influence Every Day". Everyone present was in full agreement that this issue, concerning our young adults, is of the highest priority and should demand our immediate attention.

FAITH BASED COMMUNITY SUMMIT

Tom Corbi is working with Pastor Joseph Monohan in developing a Faith Based Summit for this coming September. He hopes to bring as many churches and synagogues from the greater Medford area together to discuss community issues they have in common such as Community Food Banks, Disaster Preparedness for events such as Sandy, and how to help support our residents in other ways. Churches should be an integral part of every community.

NEW BUSINESS

SIG FOR MEDFORD MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Medford Superintendent Dr. Del Rossi is very interested in holding a SIG day for the junior high students. He will contact Memorial principal Shawn Ryan to coordinate date availability, most likely in May. Jim Geiger suggested that some modifications may need to be considered so the program is appropriate for the younger age group. During the discussion, Dr. Del Rossi also stated that there are several events sponsored by the Middle School that include senior citizens.

CENTRAL RECORD LIAISON

In March, a meeting was held with Susan Miller, editor of the Central Record and her staff correspondent, Monica Hollenbeck. Jim Geiger, Wendy McBair, and Tom Corbi attended. By virtue of that meeting, meeting, two articles were published in the March 26, 2015 edition featuring both NSAC and MHAA (Medford Homeowner's Association Alliance). Ms. Miller was very excited to hear of the NSAC's broad representation and complemented the diligence and statue of so many residents willing to give of their time, voluntarily, to make Medford the best it can be. She believes the Central Record is the main newspaper of Medford and is interested in featuring, and perhaps having regular articles about, the activities of NSAC. We will continue to work with Ms. Miller and her staff. She offered her help and support in any way.

MEDFORD MESSENGER

In response to several requests from Medford residents to members of the NSAC, discussion about a possible return of the Medford Messenger newsletter took place. It was last printed in 2010 with Beth Portocalis and her staff providing support. While this can be placed in virtual form on the township's website, along with many other items of information (ie the Senior Citizen's new brochure, etc) Beth projected that about 1/2 of Medford residents would like to have a hard copy. She proposed that 8 pages would be enough if we again published the newsletter and that it could continue to focus on non-profit activities and groups in Medford along with meeting notices of special events. Ideas offered by the group for financing included allowing businesses to purchase ads, to float an RFP (Request for Proposal) to organizations in Medford, send a limited addition with tax bills and/or the Medford calendar (produced by the Rotary). Estimates on the cost of such a newsletter twice a year will be researched by Tom & Beth. Also, if direct mailing is considered, lower mailing rates may be available as Medford township is non-profit.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Medford still has a limited number of people (approximately 600 – 800) who have signed up for NIXLE, the Township Operations site, and the Events notification group. MHAA will encourage the HOA's to be part of these communication opportunities. Tamarac uses Face book. Headwater sends regular emails via Blind Copy. The committee agreed it is best to add methods of communication rather than to replace them. The committee decided to form a sub-committee to work on the Medford Messenger and other communication issues. Beth Portocalis, Colleen Stover, Tom Wright, and Lauren Kochan volunteered to participate. A survey of Medford residents may be considered.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Chief Richard Meder reported on the following:

The Police Department had a successful ***Coffee with a Cop*** with several hundred people attending the event at the Dunkin Donuts on Stokes Road. Dunkin Donuts donated back a portion of the proceeds from the sales during the event held on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

Registration of Video Surveillance Equipment has been advertised on line and via the newspapers and through the Business Association. Only 3 businesses have signed up. Chief Meder would like NSAC and the MHAA to help publicize and explain the program to Medford residents. There is no cost to residents, the information on the cameras will not be shared, just stored, there is not ability for the police department to tap into anyone's camera. Having this partnership will provide a significant time saver if something happens in the area of a video camera. The service is available to businesses in Medford. Mr. Corbi stated that MHAA will advertise.

National Night Out is its planning stage. It is scheduled for August 4th from 7-9P at Freedom Park. It is a symbolic community event with demonstrations. NSAC will place information on this event in the NSAC column in the Central Record.

Drug Alliance programs depend on available funding, on schedules of the people involved, and the subject decided upon. Activities may include letters to parents, website information and emails and include a theme message. Members of NSAC asked to be educated on problems that exist in Medford so they can be better informed to help their children, grandchildren and neighborhoods. Chief Meder suggested information be communicated to help promote the delivery of unused medications to the police department and narcotics and pain killers used by adults are often taken and shared with other teens. A **lock box** is being obtained within the next six months for the **Medication Return Program**. Chief Meder and Heidi Krihak will meet with Susan Miller to publicize the program when it is available.

After a very productive and informative meeting, Jim Geiger made a motion for adjournment at 9:29 pm. Tom Corbi seconded the motion.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at Cranberry Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McBair
Executive Secretary, NSAC