



MEDFORD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 7, 2015 MEETING

Presented for Approval Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The January 2015 NSAC meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm with a quorum and the following 12 members and 2 guests present: Chairman Thomas Corbi, Vice-Chairman James Geiger, Secretary Wendy McBair, Medford Township Liaison Beth Portocalis, Steven Conger, James Juliano, Heidi Krihak, Chief Richard Meder, Bridget O'Hanlon, Colleen Stover, Robert Wagner, and Tom Wright. Present members absent were Mayor Charles Watson, Paul Celia, Peter Cohen, EDC ex-officio Lauren Kochan, and Rev. Joseph Monahan. Guests in attendance were Antonio Sporacio and Lt. Jeffrey Wagner.

MINUTES

The agenda and minutes from the December, 2014 meeting were distributed, reviewed and approved as submitted with no corrections or revisions.

Mr. Corbi appointed Wendy McBair as the official NSAC Secretary, and thanked Vice Chair James Geiger for his filling of that position during the last year with excellence.

WELCOMES & ACTIONS BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Introduced were new council members Chief Richard Meder from Medford's Police Department, and Shawnee High School Junior Robert Wagner (by Executive Order 2015-01). He also welcomed guests Antonio Sporacio of Riviera Pizza and La Campagnola Restaurant, and Lt. Jeffrey Wagner, coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management in the police department.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

Mr. Sporacio is considering appointment to the council with Mr. Corbi thanking him for his 40 plus years of business service and philanthropy to the Medford Community. Additional appointees will be considered with the goal of obtaining 20 members completing a comprehensive representation of all areas of Medford life.

Student Government Day

Mr. Corbi complimented Shawnee High School representatives and Beth Portocalis on behalf of Medford Township on the successful Students In Government Day this past October, and set in motion one to take place in the Spring of 2015.

Senior Citizens

Senior Liaison Colleen Stover indicated that the Senior Activities brochure is almost complete and is in the final proofing and approval stages. Estimates of the printing cost are being obtained from area vendors. Mr. Corbi asked that the specifications of the quotations be obtained in writing before a final decision is rendered. Medford Shop Rite has offered to sponsor the printing cost and appropriate credit will be noted on the brochure. Mr. Corbi offered to meet with the chair of the committee, if needed. Vice Chair Jim Geiger noted that the Medford BOE could have been helpful with projects needing funding and printing such as this, had there been proper representation attendance. There is presently no budget funding for the NSAC in the township.

Walk With Ease

Beth Portocalis led a team of volunteers to submit a grant application for the Arthritis Foundation's Walk with Ease program. This evidenced program has been taken over by the National Parks and Recreation Association. If awarded to Medford Township, the grant would provide \$4000 for books that go along with the program. The group was supported by volunteers at Medford Leas and Mary Turner, a certified leader of other arthritis and osteoporosis exercise programs sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation. Beth was complimented for pulling together the group quickly. It was noted that Wendy McBair from NSAC was both staff and former Board Member of the Arthritis Foundation for more than 30 years and was familiar with the program.

WIFI/Computers at Cranberry Hall

Beth Portocalis stated that arrangements have been made with Verizon for the WIFI and computer connections so that computers will be reinstalled at Cranberry Hall with lines run from the Township building on Main Street in the near future. The wireless connection should be up and running in the next few days, completing a much needed upgrade.

Cranberry Hall Usage

Cranberry Hall usage has increased, as several HOA's as well as many senior programs now hold regular meetings at the location. This has alleviated the problems of meeting at the Public Safety Building, which already has a formidable schedule for official township events and meetings. The property is growing in popularity and is being well used.

Safe Communities/Clean Communities Initiative

Shawnee High School reported that they are in discussion with Mr. Campbell to ensure their participation which would include marketing/slogans/logo, etc. Other activities will be discussed as the initiative unfolds.

NEW BUSINESS

Safe Communities/Clean Communities Vision

The council discussed the addition of the safe community initiative to the clean communities, with the clean communities getting the initial focus. Members expressed that the two go hand in hand and would both support an environment that we all want to have developed and continue in Medford. April's Earth Day on the 22nd was discussed for the kick off. It was decided that the announcements, PSA's and communication of the initiative should occur in March with the clean-up of the Freedom Park being the first all community project in April close to the Earth Day date. The goal is to change the cultural attitude towards re-instilling Pride, Integrity, Accountability, Responsibility, Safety, and Environmental Awareness. Though we need timeless goals, we need to be able to assess progress of where we are now and what we accomplish, including comparisons. Projects need to include behaviors and time frames we would like to have happen.

Difficulties include how to change behaviors and attitudes of a sense of entitlement ("not my problem"; "I pay taxes – let someone else do this") of some residents in Medford; and how to obtain support from Burlington County to take on appropriate responsibilities for County roads running through Medford.

Problem areas discussed by committee included uncontrolled signage throughout Medford, all parks (carry in/ carry out not being followed), cleaning up along streets, trash at MYAA fields following games, student parking areas, including streets and fields nearby, and the necessity for enforcement of ordinances, fines, fees, and rules.

Specific actions discussed included the following:

- Adopt a Road/Highway/Area with Identification of Groups/Organizations willing to adopt specific areas
- Area Specific Cleanup Projects (i.e. Freedom Park, Tomlinson Park, etc.)
- Possible Fees & Bonding Deposits for those organizations using the public fields and facilities
- Carry In/Carry Out refuse policy
- Need to develop attainable Goals
- Require permits for approved signage of any nature with Bonds for removal costs & limits of amount & location
- Before and after photographs to demonstrate success/progress
- Instilling the directives of Pride, Integrity, Accountability, Responsibility, Safety, and Environmental Awareness should be included in all project visions

The February 4th meeting will primarily focus on the SCCC Initiative with discussions revolving around practical next steps. Chief Meder will be providing information to help support future activities related to the Safe Initiative. The Township police department is still staffed by 28 police officers down from a former number of 48. Additional staff will provide improved support for the safety of Medford citizens.

NSAC Reorganization

Although the term of Chairman Thomas Corbi was technically over, the members of the NSAC requested he continue as, and James Geiger to continue as Vice-Chair. This was approved unanimously. Wendy McBair is the newly appointed Secretary, and Beth Portocalis rounds out the ExComm as Special Liaison to the Township Council.

Charles Watson is now the new mayor of Medford Township. Jeffrey Beenstock will serve as Deputy Mayor.

Additional NSAC appointments/reappointments will be announced at the next Town Council meeting. The goal of the ExComm is the completion of the comprehensive representation of Medford on the NSAC.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 7 pm at Cranberry Hall.

A motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Wright and seconded by Colleen Stover. Vice Chair Geiger adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McBair, *NCAC Secretary*