



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK ABILITIES COUNCIL

"Embracing the power of 'We' by including everyone"

Meeting Minutes December 8, 2010

Members present: Robin Turner, Marge Griscti, Valerie Molnar, Shanti Narra, Glen Sandor

Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm

From the Chairwoman:

2011 - North Brunswick Disabilities Awareness Day will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011, at the former Johnson & Johnson facility, 2300 US Route 1 North, North Brunswick, NJ, Yellow Bird Building, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

- Community Invitations, Vendor Invitations & Forms distributed to Board Members
- Action Items distributed to Board Members

The Mayor will send 2011 term letters to the Abilities Council Board Members. The terms will be appointed in January. There will be 4 openings on the Board.

Committee Business

Glen has requested and is waiting for quotations on the backpacks for 2011 - Disabilities Awareness Day.

Glen is in the process of filing an application for a BMS Grant for 2011 – Disabilities Awareness Day that was approved by the Mayor & Council on December 6, 2010.

201 DAD photographs are posted on the Abilities Council web page.

No new updates on Special Education follow-up.

The 2011 Meeting Abilities Council monthly meeting schedule was distributed among the members present and will be posted on the Abilities Council web-site. 2011 monthly meetings set for the 2nd Wednesday of every month commencing at 6:00pm.

Valerie has contacted the Association for the Blind to invite them to have a display table at our 2011 Disabilities Awareness Day and is waiting for a call back.

The members discussed the 2011 Goals & Objectives of this Council.

Chairwoman Robin Turner recorded the December 8, 2010 meeting minutes.

New Business

Marge Griscti will follow up on an article she read in the newspaper where as the Fort Lee Advisory Board are looking for sweeping change to New Jersey's system of issuing parking placards for people with developmental disabilities as part of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Robin Turner contacted the North Brunswick School District and provided information to Pete Clark & Brian Zychowski about KidsBridge Tolerance Museum in Ewing at TCNJ. KidsBridge is a safe and fun learning environment for children who are unsure how to handle certain situations, or At Risk youths. Discussions revolve around fear, bullying and discrimination that children face every day and the children have an opportunity to engage in dialog. KidBridge consists of workshops for Elementary & Middle School students to address issues of conflict, violence, & gang attraction. Brainstorming sessions include and focus on, Anti-Bullying, Violence Prevention, Gang Resistance, Distinguish Between Real Heroes and Celebrities, Disabilities Awareness & Sensitivity, Gender Identity, Self-Esteem, Victim Empowerment, Community Service Hero Building, Hero-Building. Some of the goals of the program include self-esteem enhancements, positive life skills strategies, team building skills, and aspiration into to college. The children see themselves as capable of achievements.

2011 - Goals & Objectives Discussion Only - Part I

Brainstorming

- Buddy Ball - Enhance Awards Day
- Veteran's Day Speaker for North Brunswick Community
- Obtain information on Carteret's Veteran Housing program
- Meet and discuss handicap accessibility - former J&J property
- Collaborate with North Brunswick Education Department
 - Kidsbridge
- Advocacy Training
- Speakers – Septa / SPAN

- 2011 - Disabilities Awareness Day – Confirmed

Informational Purposes

Carteret is holding their 2011 Disabilities Awareness Day on March 13, 2011.

The Special Olympics is holding their event on March 5 & 6, 2011.

Post available board membership slots on TV-15 in accordance with the terms of this council's requirements.

Roundtable Discussion

Meeting concluded at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Turner
Chairwoman
North Brunswick Abilities Council

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

**All meetings begin at 6pm and are held at the
Municipal Building, 710 Hermann Road.
The public is invited to attend!**