

**FREEHOLD BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**February 6, 2018**

**6:00 pm - 7:45 pm**

**Attendees:**

**Carol Lida**

**Jane Fields**

**Gianna Dell'Omo**

**Shauntele' Patterson**

**Festus Olayinka**

**Annette Jordan**

**Agenda Item 1. Adopt-a-Neighbor Program**

Ron presented the governing body's concern with the program's practical implementation, regarding recruitment of a sufficient number of volunteers, and the possible conflict with Code Office enforcement of the 24 hour shoveling ordinance. The Committee agreed that it should first try to recruit the volunteers to initiate the public's interest in the program. It was suggested that we introduce the program to the community via the Borough's web site, with the Volunteer guidelines and application form posted to the site. Annette suggested we contact the High School Superintendent of Extra Curricular activities, Jason Longo for his assistance.. To alleviate the school's liability, we would simply request that the school present the flyers to the students, to lead them to the Borough's web site for enrollment. Annette suggested we also reach out to the YMCA's leadership group, Casa Freehold, and First Aid Cadets. Jane offered to reach out to Reverend Reinken for church group involvement.

With regard to volunteer management, Gianna proposed that volunteers be assigned to sections or neighborhoods, and an adult volunteer of each section appointed to manage his/her group, which would alleviate the need to phone the Borough Offices. As for the enforcement of code in the event a volunteer does not show, the program recipient would be required to provide the Code office with a copy of his/her approved application, and perhaps be permitted an additional 24 hours for removal.

Once details of the program are approved and finalized, we can contact The News Transcript to print an article to promote awareness and to recruit more volunteers.

**Agenda Item 2. Beautification Contest**

Gianna contacted Manager of The Home Depot, Freehold, to request its participation again this year for the grand prize. We are pleased to announce that The Home Depot has donated **two** Huntington grills for the contest. The Committee did approach Downtown Partnership for a prize donation. The Partnership advised that it is no longer collecting gift certificates and that we should approach the businesses directly. The Committee was hoping that it could obtain additional cash prizes from the Borough's Special Events Fund.

With regard to attracting more contestants, Shauntele suggested we contact local landscapers to distribute the flyer to their customers, and have flyers accessible to residents obtaining permits. Once all prizes are secured, the Committee will commence promotion of the contest, rules and prizes on the Borough's web site. Contest entries and winners will coincide with Mayor's Cleanup hosted in May.

### **Agenda Item 3. Unity Walk**

Concept for the Unity Walk was presented by Shauntele and Annette who met with town clergy and the Recreation Committee. The proposed date is Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-2pm, with a rain date of Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The walk will commence in front of the Hall of Records at 10:30 a.m for registration and benediction from a clergy member. Registrants would be given T-shirts donated by a local company and water. The walk would continue to Veteran's Park, where the public would congregate. Whether or not the walk would initiate from the Hall of Records or participants would convene at and walk through Veteran's Park is yet to be decided. Shauntele mentioned inviting food trucks and/or a Church group may offer to have a barbeque.

Shauntele invited owner of It's About Art, Toni Field, to attend our meeting. Mrs. Field spoke about rock painting and will offer rock painting classes to the students at the middle school. The students are encouraged to design and paint inspirational messages on rocks, which will be transported and available to participants at the event to place in the park.

### **Agenda Item 4. Senior Appreciation Day**

The use application for the Hall of Records parking lot was submitted and this year's event date is Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gianna suggested whether or not the Committee would consider an alternate indoor venue for the event, such as the Freehold Raceway building. The Committee would speak with Ron to inquire as to whether or not it would be possible to use the building. Shauntele suggested a dance contest in honor of Fred Smith. Use of an indoor venue would be more practical for dance and other related activities, not to mention eliminate the concern for weather conditions. Gianna stated she would ask for Kruisers participation again this year, as they were instrumental in the promotion of last year's event.

### **Agenda Item 5. Ideas/Comments**

The Committee briefly discussed other annual events, as in our participation in the Memorial Day Parade. The St. Patrick's Day Parade was also mentioned. And preparations for the Committee's 9-11 service to be planned and discussed in future meetings.

Carol presented her idea for our members to gather socially on a quarterly basis to unite the Committee to participate in downtown events, and other community functions. Members are free to share his/her ideas for activities.

**Next Meeting Date: March 6, 2018**