

FREEHOLD BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2018
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Attendees:

Carol Lida

Ron Griffiths

Jane Fields

Gianna Dell'Omo

Christine Gregory

Shauntele' Patterson

Festus Olayinka

Annette Jordan

Sgt Edward Santana

Freehold Township HR Attendees

Rev Jeff Philhower

Don Cruz

Ann Tarnoff

Sharon Brown

Joanne Price

Sgt Todd Smith

Agenda Item 1. Adopt-a-Neighbor Program

Committee is in the process of introducing the program to the community via the Borough's web site. Volunteer and Recipient guidelines and application and waiver of liability forms were forwarded to Pat Ruegger for distribution to Council members and Borough Administration for review. The Borough's high school Extra Curricular Department chair has been contacted, and arrangements for recruitment of volunteers among National Honor Society students will be forthcoming. To alleviate the school's liability, we would simply request that the school present the flyers and guidelines to the students, to lead them to the Borough's web site for enrollment. Once details of the program are approved and finalized by the Borough and Council, we will also reach out to the YMCA's leadership group, Casa Freehold, and First Aid Cadets. Jane will be meeting with Reverend Reinken on Thursday to discuss HR's programs 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, we suggested that the program recipient be required to provide the Code office with a copy of his/her approved application, and if Code Enforcement was agreeable, perhaps be permitted an additional 24 hours for removal. Also that Code Enforcement be provided with a list of Borough recipients.

Again, once details of the program are approved and finalized, we will contact The News Transcript to print an article to promote awareness and to recruit more volunteers. Target date is October 1st.

Agenda Item 2. Beautification Contest

We contacted Brocks Farms for a prize donation and are awaiting a response. Upon confirmation of all prizes, we will ask to have web site information revised to include all prize giveaways. We have one resident entry to date. Jane provided the committee with flyers for distribution.

Agenda Item 3. Unity Walk

Shauntele' presented the Committee with a Project Status Report for the Unity Walk scheduled for June 2nd. It was agreed by the Committee that there would not be an admission fee charged to the public. Authorized to collect funds, the Recreation Committee agreed to participate in collection of donations for the Borough's YMCA. For donation of \$1.00, participants would receive a T-Shirt, bottled water, and a hotdog. Church clergy group would provide hotdogs. Costco agreed to donate water, snacks and tents for the day. Registration will be in front of the Hall of Records at 10:30 a.m. The walk will commence at 11:00 a.m., moving upward from Court Street, to Monument Street, to Shanck and Oak streets to Veteran's Park.

It's About Art, Toni Field, will offer rock painting classes to the students at the middle school during the remainder of the school semester. 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.

The event will be promoted on the Borough's web site, The News Transcript, and FaceBook. Mention of creating and hanging a banner in town was also discussed.

Agenda Item 4. Senior Appreciation Day

At the last meeting Gianna suggested whether or not the Committee would consider an alternate indoor venue for the event, such as the Freehold Raceway building. Gianna met with Manager of the Freehold Raceway, to tour the building for use of available space. The building does not offer one large contiguous room which could comfortably house the event. Event will remain at Hall of Records parking lot. The Freehold Kruisers have agreed to participate with promotion of classic car show.

Agenda Item 5. HR Committee Group Gathering

At our last meeting, Carol presented her idea for our members to gather socially. We suggested meeting in town for Flavors of Freehold on March 14th. We will inquire as to ticket purchase availability at the event. Members are free to share his/her ideas for future activities.

Agenda Item 6. Memorial Day Parade

Gianna contacted the Freehold Kruisers for its participation in this year's parade. Kruisers will advise as to whether its members will provide vehicles for our Committee members. Carol will prepare the application and Committee's announcement to submit to parade coordinator by deadline of May 1st.

Agenda Item 7. HR Pamphlets

We will address in further detail editing of HR Committee pamphlet at our next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: April 3, 2018

Joint Meeting with Freehold Township HR Committee

At commencement, all members introduced themselves to all present.

The meeting started with introducing the idea of creating magnets to help raise funds for the Borough's Volunteer First Aid Department. The Township HR was very supportive of the idea and offered to help distribute at local events. Jane presented a preliminary draft for the magnet and asked for assistance with design regarding logos. She will contact the First Aid Chief for further input. Inquiry was made as to the cost and funds for payment of magnets. On behalf of the Township's HR, Rev Philhower offered to donate funds for the cost of the first 1000 magnets ordered. It was agreed by the members that donation price for the magnet be \$5.00. Magnets could be dropped off at business locations, sold at playing fields, Memorial Day parade, National Night out, and other local town events. Organizing collection of funds will be further discussed. Upon completion of a draft design, Jane will present via email to all members for comment and approval.

Further discussion for Police-Community relations was presented. The Sergeant members were asked to comment on how the legalization of marijuana is affecting their work. All members agreed that it will present significant problems within the community. Awareness of several drug busts in the vicinity were acknowledged. A suggestion was made to send a group letter or petition to the State assembly members to urge their careful consideration of the regulations associated with the passage of the law.

Drug Alliance programs are delivering awareness within the school system, and police officers do occasionally make presentations to the school body. Church youth groups are also involved in presenting greater awareness, however attendance is irregular. The Committees are faced with the challenge of finding the proper outlets to promote awareness and prevention, while unifying the community, which will continue to be addressed in future meetings.

Discussion relating to next week's National Student Walk Out, as a result of the Portland shootings, scheduled for March 14th in the Township was also presented to the group. Whether or not it is safe to allow students to partake in the walk-out, and school limitations and restrictions were also addressed. Restrictions as to gun control was also considered and debated.