

FREEHOLD BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2019

6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Attendees:

Jane Fields

Ronald Griffiths

Gianna Dell'Omo

Annette Jordan

Christine Gregory

Festus Olayinka

Sergeant Edward Santana

Paul Jensen

Agenda Item 1. Beautification Contest 2019

Promotions for the contest and applications have been cited on the Freehold Borough web site, and Downtown Partnership Facebook page. Sergeant Santana brought second and third prizes he collected for the contest to the meeting. Gianna will make arrangements to pick up first prize grill from The Home Depot in the next week. Although a press release was forwarded to The NewsTranscript for contest promotion, we were advised that circulation has been reduced dramatically. The Committee is therefore committed to extending promotions via individual Facebook pages, flyers, Borough email blasts and Newsletter to increase resident participation. Jane presented the committee with a final draft of the award certificate for commercial winners for review and approval. Certificates will be presented in frames to be purchased.

Agenda Item 2. CommUNITY Walk

Participants will convene for the event in front of Borough Hall, on Saturday, June 29th at 2:30 p.m. for registration. Carol will introduce the Mayor's commencement address and Reverend Sparks' inspirational message to the attendees. Carol will contact the choir director at AME to inquire about a musical presentation to follow. The Walk will start at 3:00 p.m and participants will be led to the Court Street School for food, music and festivities until 6:00 p.m. Walk route preparations to be discussed with Sergeant Santana and Borough Police Chief prior to the event. For a \$5 donation participants will receive an event bag with theme logo. All proceeds will be donated to the Borough's First Aid EMS Department.

Gianna met with the Recreation Commission at its meeting on April 16th to discuss plans for the Walk. The Commission offered \$500 toward payment for the event DJ and ice cream truck vendor. Sergeant Santana presented the PBA's donation of \$200 for the bounce house rental. Neighborhood Connections to Health, Executive Director, Kristine Ling, offered to pay for the event bags and printing. Gianna contacted Mel O'Neal for the YMCA's participation.

Mel offered to prepare a variety of group games for attendees of all ages. MTN Organization, Inc. has offered to supply all of the grill food for the event. Gianna contacted Freehold Sam's Club and Stop & Shop for store card donations. Water will be purchased with Stop & Shop donation. Annette will put together a "Freehold Borough Basket", including a Centennial sweatshirt and donations from local businesses for a prize give-away. Details for food preparation will be discussed with members of the Clergy Association at its May meeting. The Committee decided to welcome resident dogs to walk in the event. Annette will provide a popcorn machine. Annette and Gianna will meet with Andrea McPherson to secure water supply at the School site for misters and sprinklers, and discuss grounds preparations. Annette contacted the Monmouth County Park association about exotic pet presentation for the event. Additional funds will be needed to cover the cost of a face painter and pet presentation. Event flyers and donation receipt letters were prepared in English and Spanish and distributed to committee members. Annette also suggested contacting the Little League to distribute flyers at its snack stand and make announcements at the games.

Agenda Item 3 . Memorial Day Parade

Committee has submitted its application and has been approved by Parade Committee to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. The Freehold Kruisers offered to provide a car for our members. Committee will distribute CommUNITY Walk flyers to attendees to promote the CommUNITY Walk.

Agenda Item 4. Olde Freehold Day

Committee members have decided to volunteer their time at the event on Saturday, August 17, rather than have a table this year. Annette has notified parade committee members, Barbara Keane and Mary Randolph, of the Committee's decision.

Agenda Item 5. Senior Appreciation Day

Event applications and guidelines were sent to invite vendor participants, and eight applications have been received to date, including CentraState event van. More developments, ideas and suggestions will be presented in future meetings.

Agenda Item 6. Ideas/Suggestions/Comments

Gianna spoke with Jean Patterson, Manager/Director of the Borough's Community Garden, who expressed her concern for empty plots at the garden site despite numerous promotional attempts. She asked if our members could assist in creating incentives to gain participation by Borough residents. Annette suggested asking the Borough Library if it would be willing to incorporate the garden in its activities. Annette also suggested that a certain portion of the garden plot be dedicated to children gardeners.

Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2019