

METUCHEN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES from September 23rd, 2020

Borough Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

Present:

Members:

Jennifer Asprocolas, Michael Geschlecht, Rena Kallman, Dave Kallman, Wesley Brooks, Robin Brown, Pat Kay Audra Sbarra (Chair),

.

Absent: Gail Zellely, Krissy Cantin Garside

Public in attendance:

Old Business: None

New Business:

Human Relations Meeting and Disability Presentation

- Presentation is open to the public and the Metuchen Community who either have a connection or want to learn more about the disability community.
- Presentation should be kept light and down to earth.
- Robin attended the Human Relations Commission Meeting and that group gave the committee full direction for the program. Once the group decides on a direction, we will meet with them to finalize this work in progress.
- Audra suggested to do it some point in November after Election Day (Right now set for Wednesday, November 18th at 7:30 PM.)
- HRC will design graphics and publicity and event will be sponsored by both groups.
- Program could start with a **short** presentation on disability rights and types of disabilities such as the 504 sit-in in San Francisco and the passing of the ADA.
- Segway into how Metuchen is making accessibility a way of life such as with the accessible playground.

- Audra will share some pictures of committee's history to continue Segway.
- **Bulk of presentation should be stories.** Stairs were discussed at HRC meeting as a concern for those with disabilities as well as examples on how to understand those with visual and physical differences by addressing them directly or how to give directions.
- **Inclusion** should be addressed directly such as mentioning different software and programs allowing for full participation in meetings and seminars.
- **The END GOAL is a COMMUNITY CONVERSATION to do four segments**
 1. History and types of disabilities also covering invisible disabilities and a brief discussion on categories. Robin will see if she can find a breakdown on percentages.
 2. Current Issues for people in **the town of Metuchen. Sheri will cover this part for preparation and committee will decide who speak. The issues are parking, sidewalks, building accessibility, how meetings are run, technology and general overview of special ed in schools**
 3. Personal Stories (one by a couple members of the group). Sheri's son Max also offered to tell a short story of what it is like to go to school with a disability and Pat also offered to share about what it took to make the apartment more accessible.
 4. Goals (instructions on etiquette, handouts, books and movies to view. Jen also offered to share a poem to get people thinking as well.
- Stories and who will share them will be discussed at the next meeting in October.

Voting for 2020 Election notes

- Rena noted that there was a concern about in person voting and those who need assistance.
- She will share the information with the group upon receipt and make sure the word gets out.
- Rena also noted that disability information was not shared until late and clear information needs to be shared within both parties in the town of Metuchen to clear confusion.
- Sheri noted to get the five-ten most important points down and Rena noted many users do not have computer access as well as make sure the Senior Center is given the info.
- Rena will write up the list and make sure everything is clarified.

Next meeting is **Wednesday October 28th at 8:00 PM at borough hall or on zoom.**