



Community Awareness Committee Agenda – 4.18.22

Meeting called to order by Brandon Kyker at 2:04pm

Present: Brandon Kyker, Gina Zinck, Megan Bennett, Julie Davis, Suzanne Martinez, Nancy Portincaso

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Minutes and Approval

- Brandon will be attaching the past two meeting minutes to the next committee agenda to be approved.

3.0 Public Comments

- No public comments.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Homelessness Awareness Month – Community Engagement / People in Need Forum

- Brandon discussed mimicking the People in Need Forum and allowing agencies to give brief presentations to showcase what they do and how to apply for their services. Landlord engagement being tethered in is discussed. Brandon Kyker asks the committee if they like the idea of a similar setup to the People in Need Forum and how big the room size is.
- Julie says the room is big and will allow the agencies to setup booths and to have 25 seats in the middle of the room. They can have a couple of presentations including one about landlords and Helping Without Hurting. Julie brought up the need for bikes.
- Brandon discussed taking donations earlier and having a physical drop-off location for summer gear such as bikes, as well as making a flyer to promote it and a wishlist for donations.
- Megan mentioned that MCHA has a lot of remaining donations and asks if they can donate it to the Empower Shower. Julie agreed to it.
- Sam offered hand sanitizer for the event.
- Brandon discussed food trucks for the event and signage.

4.2 Renaming – Empower Shower and Homelessness Awareness Month

- The committee discussed Neighbors In Need and whether or not the name is too broad. The idea of adding a subtitle like “Understanding Homelessness in McHenry County” is praised.
- Nancy brought up font size and design possibilities for the Neighbors In Need signage.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Food Trucks and Bands

- Brandon mentioned that 2-3 bands have expressed interest in performing at the event but no time slots have been discussed yet.
- Brandon has not talked to any food trucks yet but has started thinking about what kind of food options they might need.
- Nancy mentioned food trucks are very specific with the amount of food they bring and sometimes can run out of food.

- Megan reminded the committee of the importance of having soft foods available for homeless who may have poor dental hygiene or are missing teeth.
- The committee discussed the idea of providing chips and drinks to offset the costs of the food trucks.

5.2 Community Outreach

- Sam and Nancy both mentioned promoting the website and keeping it updated.
- Nancy discussed how people can suggest a post for the website and allow other people to write blog posts.
- Julie brought up the idea of bringing in an intern to work on the website.

6.0 Member Announcements

- No member announcements.

7.0 Adjournment

- Julie motioned for adjournment. Nancy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm.