

**Montgomery Township
Autumn Festival Committee
Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2011**



At 6:45 p.m. Co-Chair Ruth Hardin called the Autumn Festival meeting to order. Sue Dessner, Candyce Chimera, Lawrence Gregan, Katherine Grubb and Deb Rivas were in attendance.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The March 9, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

5K Run/Walk:

Wade Balmer, Director of Operations & Mission Integration for the Arthritis Foundation, was present to speak about partnering with the Township for a 5K Run/Walk which would benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Mr. Balmer spoke about the Arthritis Foundation and the 5K Run/Walk that it holds each year in the fall, and he also provided a list of items which are required to organize a 5K Run/Walk. The Committee inquired as to what resources the Arthritis Foundation could provide to help with the 5K Run/Walk. Mr. Balmer indicated that they usually do not provide any direct resources, but he would check to see what they might be able to assist with. The Committee explained that the Township staff is primarily consumed with the planning of the Autumn Festival and the setup and running of that day. As a result, the Township would not be able to provide any manpower resources for the day. Tony Ruggieri, Chairman of the Montgomery Township Park & Recreation Board, was present with his son, Vince. They offered to be the liaisons for the Arthritis Foundation. Questions were raised about where the run would start and what time. The Committee was concerned about the run occurring where the setup of vendors is occurring prior to the start of Autumn Festival. Also, an earlier start time was preferred by the Committee, but Mr. Balmer recommended a later start time as many participants may have arthritis and need additional time to get moving in the morning. The Committee offered the Arthritis Foundation a table at Autumn Festival so that they could provide information. Lawrence Gregan suggested that the Township review the organization list that was provided and identify what resources the Township could provide to the 5K Run/Walk.

Volunteer T-Shirts:

The color of this year's T-Shirt was narrowed down to two, Daisy (Yellow) or Gold. By a vote of 2 to 1, the color Daisy was chosen.

Deb Rivas updated the Committee on the petting zoo, including the pony rides, the amusements and the disc jockey. All three vendors have been confirmed for the event and deposits made. The petting zoo is adding an additional pony at a discounted rate as the rides are popular with our residents. We are still under budget with the additional pony added.

Sue Dessner researched some new ideas for the Autumn Festival. Those ideas included a batting cage, table games, fireworks, etc. The committee discussed the pros and cons of each item. Since the MTBSA already has a batting cage onsite, Mr. Ruggieri suggested that the MTBSA be contacted to see if their batting cage would be available for the Autumn Festival.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the request received from Corsello's Kempo Karate. This organization has made a donation and would like to provide a demonstration during the Autumn Festival. The Committee agreed that this would be a welcome addition to the day. It was agreed that Supervisor Birch should be made aware of this request as he had arranged for a karate demonstration last year. Supervisor Chimera offered to speak to Supervisor Birch.

It was noted that in years past the Township had provided a monetary donation to the Civil War Reenactors for their attendance at the event. However, the Civil War Reenactors also came to eat at the volunteer tent for free. The Township usually has some of the volunteer food donated, but also needed to purchase additional food. The staff wanted to inquire if any of the Committee members had any concerns about not feeding the Civil War Reenactors this year. In this way, the Township would still continue to provide the monetary donation, but save money on purchasing additional food. The Committee all agreed that food will not be provided. Staff will make contact with the reenactors now so that they are not surprised on the date of the event.

Ruth Hardin agreed to contact the Neshaminy Falls Singers to perform the National Anthem at the event.

The Committee agreed to order a few less pumpkins this year as there were significant leftovers last year.

The Committee agreed to keep the pricing the same for all events as last year.

Deb Rivas reported on the problems which occurred at the corn maze last year with kids throwing the corn, etc. The Committee recommended that we ask for an increased police presence back at the corn maze.

Deb Rivas reported that while the donations are starting to come in, there have been no donations received from any of the Township Consultants. Supervisor Chimera offered to contact the consultants and ask for their participation this year.

Deb Rivas reported that the staff was having difficulty obtaining clothing for the scarecrow making activity. Stacy Crandell and Shirley Snyder have gone to Care and Share and have purchased some items; however, we are going to need much more as we ran out of pants last year. The Committee suggested that we advertise the need for used clothing on E-News and the website, which staff has already done. Other suggestions included the Salvation Army and used baseball uniforms per Mr. Ruggieri. The Committee understands that staff will need to continue to purchase clothing as the donations are low or non-existent.

Deb Rivas reported that staff would like to use the services of the North Penn Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Corps (JROTC) as volunteers for the various activities at Autumn Festival. In previous years, the Autumn Festival had volunteers from the Key Club and Honor Society;

however, it was difficult to keep them on task without supervision. The JROTC will be accompanied by Colonel Zachary (ret.) and he will provide supervision for the group.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ruth Hardin adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.