

# Mayors Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

April 19, 2017 – 7:00 PM

55 Reid Street, South River, NJ

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**Meeting called by:** Teresa Hutchison, Chair

**Vice-Chair:** Lori Harris-Ransom

**Secretary:** Mary Ann Hoffman

**Type of Meeting:** Regular

## Committee Members:

John Brodzicki, Anita Chadha, Lori Harris-Ransom, Douglas Heine, Mary Ann Hoffman, Teresa Hutchison, Lynn Meloni, Robyn Prasek, Mary Wilk

## Community Liaison:

James Gurchensky, South River Borough Council Liaison

Danielle Oswald, President of SEPTA (Special Ed PTA) of South River

## Agenda

**Approval of Minutes:** January 25, 2017

**Attachment A**

## Old Business:

1. Committee Activities
  - a. Fire Safety Presentation @ South River Landing, February 16, 2017 (Hutchison)
  - b. ADA Coordinators Meeting & Luncheon, March 28, 2017 (Hoffman/Oswald)
2. SEPTA – Report by Danielle Oswald

**Attachment B**

## New Business:

Suggestions for Future Workshops/Events:

- \* Relay for Life, Denny Stadium (Saturday, May 13, 2017)
- \* Pack a Picnic and Pack the Park, Fitzpatrick Field (Saturday, June 3, 2017)
- \* National Night Out (Tuesday, August 1, 2017)
- \* South River End of Summer Festival & Fireworks (Date: TBD [usually August])

## Presentation:

Joe Amoroso, Director of the Department of Human Services, Division of Disabilities for the State of New Jersey.

## Public Comments

## Board Liaison Comments

## Committee Member Comments

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017

***Mayor's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities***

**Committee Composition:**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Teresa Hutchison, Chair     | Lynn Meloni (absent)                         |
| John Brodzicki (absent)     | Robyn Prasek (absent)                        |
| Anita Chadha                | Mary Wilk                                    |
| Lori Harris-Ransom (absent) | James Gurchensky, Council Liaison            |
| Douglas Heine               | Danielle Oswald, President of SEPTA, Liaison |
| Mary Ann Hoffman            |  |

**Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2017**

The 37th regular meeting of the *Mayor's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities* of the Borough of South River, NJ, was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at the South River Human Resources Building, 55 Reid Street.

Teresa Hutchison, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:24pm, with a majority of members in attendance, with introduction of current and new members of the Committee.

**Election of Officers**

The first order of business was the election of officers. Teresa Hutchison was nominated as Chair. By acclamation, she was re-elected. A motion was made by Mary Wilk to re-elect Lori Harris-Ransom as Vice Chair and seconded by Douglas Heine. A motion was made by Mary Wilk to nominate Mary Ann Hoffman for the position of Secretary and seconded by Douglas Heine. All members were in favor. Chair Hutchison thanked all the members for their service this coming year.

**Old Business**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mary Wilk to approve the minutes and seconded by Anita Chadha. All members were in favor.

Anita Chadha noted that all discussions from the last meeting were not completely reported in the last set of minutes. Discussion ensued concerning the activities since the last meeting. Anita Chadha noted that she did visit the Senior Citizen Centers (Willett Manor & South River Landing). They were interested in the training for fire prevention. She requested that the Committee follow up with Willet Manor and South River Landing.

The Committee agreed that a Fire Prevention and Safety program would be held at Willett Manor during February. Chair Hutchison will reach out to the South River Fire Sub-Code Official Art Londensky to ask for the name of the speaker. She requested a talk similar to one held about two months ago, as he gave a very good presentation. Alternatively, that he (Mr. Londensky) give the presentation, as he is extremely knowledgeable in this field and would give a great presentation. She will also reach out to the contact person at Willet Manor to request permission to hold this event. Once permission has been received, a flyer will be developed and we will communicate the

details and member participation via email. A sheet cake and coffee will be purchased for the senior's event. Mary Ann Hoffman has agreed to assist with the planning.

Chair Hutchison noted that the purpose of this Committee is to act in an advisory capacity, to hold seminars to educate residents on a variety of associated topics. One of the suggested topics of a future seminar was an outreach to parents with special needs students.

### **SEPTA**

Liaison Oswald provided a brief overview of SEPTA's activities since the last meeting. They are holding regular meetings, but attendance is poor. She is utilizing *Facebook Live*, which allows parents to view the meeting (previously recorded) at their convenience. Fundraising has been positive, with numerous small donations, and one anonymous donation of \$1,000. These fund such activities as scholarships and Kids on the Block.

The committee agreed to join Liaison Oswald for her next meeting, to be held on Thursday, March 9th @ 6:30pm. It will be held at the South River Public Library, Serviss Meeting Room. Danielle has agreed to develop a flyer and Anita has agreed to assist with this event.

### **New Business**

Chair Hutchison suggested that we invite guest speakers Bill England and Joe Amoroso to our April 27th meeting. Danielle Oswald will contact Mr. England and Chair Hutchison will confer with Mr. Amoroso's availability for this date.

It was also suggested holding other events and targeting disability month that is either April or May, we were not sure of the month but will try to determine which month it actually is and formulate plans accordingly. (*Editor's Note: There is no "Disability Month"*)

Chair Hutchison noted that the remainder of the meetings for the year would be held at the Human Resources Building as follows:

Tuesday ♦ April 19: 7pm  
Tuesday ♦ July 25: 7pm  
Tuesday ♦ October 24: 7pm

A motion to adjourn was made by Douglas Heine and was seconded by Anita Chadha. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm, with all members in favor. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hoffman,  
Secretary, ACPD

## Attachment B

March 28, 2017

Teresa:

Danielle and I attended the ADA Coordinators Meeting & Luncheon at the Pines Manor in Edison today. First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to attend, it was VERY informative.

The speakers offered a wide array of educational information concerning the ADA. I will give a brief overview of some of the topics they covered, some of which may be of interest to our Committee.

The first speaker was Jennifer Perry from the North East ADA Center.

[www.northeastada.org](http://www.northeastada.org)

Northeast ADA Center | Homepage:

The Northeast ADA Center is a member of the ADA National Network. Visit [www.adata.org](http://www.adata.org) to learn about the ADA National Network and Regional ADA Centers.

[jlp359@cornell.edu](mailto:jlp359@cornell.edu)

Their website offers webinars, archived and online, as a local resource.

There are online factsheets, technical assistance and disability statistics, just to name a few. One of the emerging issues concerns websites that are accessible to sight impaired individuals.

After the meeting, Danielle added an accessibility toolbar to the South River PTA web site. She was able to quickly add this feature, and we would encourage others to do the same.

[http:// www.southeriverpta.org/](http://www.southeriverpta.org/)

Ms. Perry noted a few things several times:

- ✚ ADA issues are addressed at the national level
- ✚ They cannot provide legal advice
- ✚ No business is “grandfathered in”

She also talked about, among other things, service animals, their registry, and the definition of a service animal (one that has been trained to do at least one task)

Ms. Perry was a wealth of information, an excellent speaker and a resource for our Committee.

The second speaker was John Dowd of the Middlesex County Preparedness Office. He spoke about those issues facing individuals with disabilities during an emergency.

He mentioned a new program at the East Brunswick Library, *Just For The Health Of It*. He encouraged all individuals with disabilities to register with their local EOM office. (I am not sure who will be staffing the South River office in the future!)

<http://seniorspaces.pbworks.com/w/page/15791752/EAST-BRUNSWICK-PL>

Overall, it was an awesome opportunity to broaden our knowledge base concerning ADA. We are hoping to bring some specific information to our next meeting, in hopes of possibly promoting new activities in South River.

Thank you.

Mary Ann & Danielle