



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, March 4, 2015
Council Chambers, Town Hall
MINUTES

Members Present: Sara Anderson (staff), Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron, Jordana Frost, Jane Goldman, Cindy Guerreri, Rachel Leclerc, Jen Scanlon, Pat Schneider, Jeff Smithson, Judy Stoughton, Kathy Ward, Ben Wiles, and Kelly Zimmerman

Guests: Noaris Burgos

Regrets: Lisa Dahn, Susan Daley, Katherine Johansen, Lisa Young, Jillene Woodmansee

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>OUTCOME</i>
CALL TO ORDER	Sara Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of February 4, 2015 meeting.	<i>The February 4, 2015 Minutes were approved by consensus.</i>
STAFF REPORT	<p>School Readiness RFP: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RFP for the School Readiness Funding for 2015-2016 has been received from the state. • The Local RFP for sub-grantees has been sent to the Centers and publicized. <p>Communications Consultant: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signature Brand had their Kickoff Meeting on February 18. • Sara has just received the wire frames and will disseminate them as soon as she takes a look at them. <p>Graustein Extension: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graustein is interested in matching the state grant however this amount is not currently in the Governor's budget. • This will be an extension rather than a new grant. • Technical Assistance and the Graustein Liaison will only be available through December of 2015. • The Public Hearing was last night and only one community showed up as the weather was very bad. • On March 18, at 10:00am there will be a press conference regarding the Parent Leadership Training and at 11:00am that day there will be 	

	press conference regarding LECC's and Graustein Community Plans. Attendance is encouraged.	
TEAM UPDATE	<p>Successful Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not meet last night so there is no update. <p>Community Connectedness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eileen Ossen has given the Town a deadline of six months to break ground and build the Playground. • The Playground issue will go to the Town Council on Monday, a physical presence is needed at the meeting to show support for the Playground. • There was a suggestion to distribute Talking Points, so people would be prepared to speak at the meeting. There will need to be a wide range of people, such as grandparents and different community members. <p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates. 	
OLD BUSINESS	<p>Sustainability Discussion for MAC: Ben Wiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC is now on the agenda for March 23. Several people met last Friday to discuss the best way to proceed. • Jordana Frost has slides to show. • Ben will tell the Town Council what MAC is and will prepare comments on the financial impact if MAC is no longer viable. (Ben is interested in feedback for history comments). • Jen Scanlon will discuss future planning. • There were meetings with Town Council members and they have many misperceptions about MAC and the role MAC plays within the Town. • MAC influences: • Civic – minded participation in the Town; active members of the community, coordinating between ECE Centers and the School System; the Mansfield Plan will continue and it is data driven. • MAC coordinates large meetings and conversations such as Kindergarten Full Day discussions and the School Renovation project. • Is there a possibility of photos and a short bio of each member as a representation of MAC? 	<p><i>Members can forward comments to Ben Wiles.</i></p> <p><i>Sara Anderson will request bios and photos from the membership.</i></p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Special MAC Community Event Planning: Pat Schneider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a Special Event on April 10 at the 	

	<p>Community Center. There will be a Jump Start for a Day program for children while parents participate in focus groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare for this event members were asked two questions; what do we want people to know about MAC; and what do we want to learn from the community? • Members wrote their answers on sticky notes and added them to a large piece of paper; they were then sorted into categories. An attachment follows with the results. 	
CLOSING	<p>Plus/Delta or Pros and Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short survey was handed out and people were asked to respond about the meeting in general and asked to give specific feedback. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.</p> <p>Next Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, March 12, 2015, 10:00am – 11:30am, Conference Room B.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Senior Center Cafeteria</p> <p>Agenda topics: Please send to Sara Anderson at AndersonSD@mansfieldct.org</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Sarah Delia Assistant to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.

What do we want the community to know about MAC?

Playground

- We're building a playground!
- We are the playground but not just the playground

Parent Portal

- Constructing and will maintain parent web portal

Advocacy

- Members Advocacy work
- School readiness work
- MAC is your voice in the community when it comes to advocating for families with local government.
- We are an advocacy group working for the wellbeing of families with young children
- MAC can be a way for you to participate in your town

Recruitment

- MAC is always open to new members. We're looking for a broad, diverse membership
- MAC is inviting community members to join and take a leadership role in Mansfield – CIVIC ENGAGEMENT!
- Open meetings, anyone can come.
- We want/need a more diverse membership to better reflect our community's makeup

MAC identity

- How does MAC work?
- What is MAC's purpose?
- How can they utilize MAC to benefit themselves?
- Who MAC serves
- How does MAC serve them
- We have a living breathing plan
- Serves as an advisory group to the town council in the area of early childhood
- Community resource for information
- MAC members are deeply invested in creating a healthy well-informed connected community for YOUR kids.
- Advocate for quality programs – education, health, etc. for your children and their families
- Who they can contact if they have questions about programs/services for young children

Education/Early Care

- Early Readiness programs
- Coordination with public schools re:transition
- Provide resources for families
- Provide website for all community members
- Administers school readiness funding
- Quality preK and successful transition to K
- Early care centers and public schools
- Venue for early childhood providers to meet, share information.
- Centers and family providers
- Coordinate communication between Mansfield schools and early childhood centers.

What do we want to know from the community?

Connected

- How connected do you feel to 1) your neighbors, 2) the community, 3) the school?
- Do you feel supported by your community?
- What makes Mansfield family-friendly?
- What is our town doing well for families?
- What do you do in town for family fun?
- What do you go out of town for because it's not available in town?
- Do you feel connected to your community?
- What kind of support do you need for your child?
- Are you fluent in "play" (the language of children)?

Recruitment

- What is your address, email address and phone number?
- Do you want to join MAC?
- Have you ever heard of MAC prior to today? How?

How involved/engaged are you?

- How often do you keep up with local politics? (i.e. town council meetings, BOE, budget season, etc.)
- Do you feel you have a voice in this community? Why or why not?

Education

- What has your experience in Pre K transition to K been?
- Concerns about the public school education system.
- Respite needs beyond day care
- Early childcare needs
- Special needs needs

Health

- How could we improve our town to make it a healthier community for families?
- Health needs of young children – getting exercise, weight, etc.
- How do you measure "health" for your child?

Needs/Motivation/Concerns

- What other parent resources would be helpful?
- What do they need?
- What would they "love" to see?
- What are your biggest concerns/frustrations as parents of young children?
- Recreation needs
- What are you passionate about?
- What would you like to see on a Mansfield parent web portal?
- What are your concerns, especially regarding health, education and community connectedness?
- Transportation needs
- Day care needs
- Would you like to have a physical location designated as a Family Resource Center? If so, what would bring you to it?
- Why did you choose to live in such a rural area?
- Are there needs for summer recreational programs that are affordable?
- What about parenting keeps you up at night?
- What info do you need?
- What motivates you to take action?
- What motivates you to get involved?