



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, September 2, 2015
Council Chambers, Town Hall
MINUTES

Members Present: Susan Daley, Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron, Jordana Frost, Jane Goldman, Cindy Guerreri, Rachel Leclerc, Jennifer Scanlon, Pat Schneider, Kathy Ward, Lisa Young, Ana Zeller and Kelly Zimmerman.

Regrets: Lisa Dahn, Jeff Smithson, Judy Stoughton.

WHAT	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of May 6, 2015, June 3, 2015 and August 5, 2015 meetings.	<i>The May 6, 2015, June 3, 2015 and August 5, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
STAFF REPORT	<p>Staff Report: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Readiness Slot Allotment Policy: Suggestion to put on the list serve and see if other towns have polices concerning slot allotment, specifically Vernon and Coventry. Put on the agenda for the November meeting • Mansfield Slot Allotment: We will see if Center Directors can fill their current slot allotments. • Yerina Ranjit could be a contact for the graduate student population. <p>Playground Update: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desiato is crushing rocks onsite because of extensive ledge found under the site. • The sign up survey is posted, this is a google form. Volunteers may sign up for Oct 10 & 11, and perhaps Oct. 12. • Food Donations and volunteers are also needed to feed the workers. • Kelly Zimmerman & the Jumpstart students will run kids activities. • The Build will be October 10 – 12. The poured in place surface will be installed slightly later. • The Committee is planning a Ribbon Cutting/Opening Ceremony on October 31. <p>Website: Communications Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog posts: Ana Zeller’s blog was posted • We are looking for new people to write and submit blogs. • Events have been posted on the calendar for 	<p><i>M. Ferron will look at other districts and compile a draft.</i></p> <p><i>S. Delia will send SR flyer to Jen Scanlon.</i></p>

	the Library and the MCC.	
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graustein has changed its strategic priorities. Graustein has re-defined where they are going. We no longer have to conform to Graustein's specifications. We are free to do what's right for Mansfield's children. • Do we have enough information to find distressed neighborhoods; free & reduced lunch information will help. • Do we have poverty in Mansfield? • Do we have language diversity? • Three options to pursue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Collaborative think tank ➢ Programmatic, Playground, Library Programs ➢ Hybrid between Policy and Programs • Supports for Sustainability from Graustein • S. Daley stressed the need to continue to advocate for young children, not losing sight of the data piece. We should be doing programs based on data. C. Guerreri mentioned that there are Technical Assistance funds available around the data question. • J. Goldman said that new families often don't understand Kindergarten or the US school system. How do we reach these people? There is a definite need for international help for young families. UConn may have figures for how many international families are living in Mansfield. • C. Guerreri mentioned that Community Connectedness is unique to Mansfield. MAC designed a survey to collect information about how people feel connected to their community. It was discovered that there was a disconnect with international families; there were community events to try to connect with the international residents. A virtual family resource has been created (website) to assist families in making choices. • MAC should build on their Community Connectedness model as this feeds into so many other areas, not just birth to 8, but also goes beyond those ages. • Kathy Ward (MBOE rep) stated that she is still not clear on what MAC does. • Pat Schneider feels that a targeted survey should be done, along the lines of the previous survey. MAC should re-schedule the Early Childhood Forum – one on one focus groups that explain more of what MAC does. • K. Zimmerman mentioned a program called 	

	<p>Read for the Record which could be combined with the EC Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Goldman suggested that the EC Forum should be moved into the neighborhoods where the working poor are residing. Use resources such as Food Share, Books on the Bus and the Holiday Program to reach residents with needs. • M. Ferron stated that there was no way to frame the mission statement that would neglect poor young children. • J. Scanlon said that schools are connected within the school community; there is still a need to reach families with children from 0-5. • M. Ferron handed out a draft MAC Annual Report and requested feedback. • M. Ferron also said that Kelly Lyman, the new MBOE Superintendent will be at the October MAC meeting. She is trying to have the OEC schedule one of their Strategic Planning Forums for the November meeting. She will talk to Coventry and Vernon about participating with Mansfield. • Rachel Leclerc spoke about the advocacy of mental health for young children. 4, 5 and 6 year olds need mental health services. <p>Chair and Membership Recruitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Guerreri asked if UConn has a leadership program. They might be interested in chairing MAC. K. Zimmerman mentioned one person who might be a possibility. • The committee (consisting of Jen Scanlon, Maggie Ferron and Jordana Frost) will look into this. 	<p><i>M. Ferron will send an inquiry to OEC about holding a Strategic Forum at a MAC meeting.</i></p>
<p>CLOSING</p>	<p>The next MAC Meeting will be Wednesday, October 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC will look at isolated families, poverty, language diversity and mental health for young children. • MAC should put Early Childhood issues in front of the Town Council. • Look at what projects need completion before June 2016. 	
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.</p> <p>Next Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, September 10, 2015, 10:00am – 11:30am, Conference Room C.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Council Chambers</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.