

**Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force**  
Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday April 3, 2014  
5:00pm – 7:00pm

*Present: Brandy Underwood, Elizabeth Dragon, Bill Grimm, Chief Goldstein, Mayor Merrifield, Joe Giunta, Jason Vezina sr, Chris Blackstone, Bob Lucas*

**Brandy Underwood** welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around a sign in sheet.

**Chris Blackstone** provided the group with community news updates.

**Task force sponsorship requests:**

**FACT-** The task force in the past has sponsored this program at the \$1,000 level. However, leadership is asking for more details of what is proposed and how it ties to the work of the task force. We have given the Opera House a deadline of May 2<sup>nd</sup> to submit their request in writing. Jason Vezina also stated that he would like to look at ways the task force can assist the Chem free activities (specifically after prom). The group discussed an application or guideline to use when reviewing these types of requests. However, it was decided that a written request identifying what the money would be used to support and how it ties into the work of the task force is sufficient. In the end, the group felt a detailed application and process was not needed because these types of sponsorships are only possible due to the turnover in the task force coordinator position. Typically the task force budget and action plan approved by the DFC does not leave room for these types of contributions. The group also agreed that it should be made clear to both the opera house and the chem free group should we provide funding that she not depend on it in future years.

**Opera House-**Also requested that the task force sign up to be a general sponsor of the Opera house (sponsors can contribute at different dollar levels). The leadership team agreed that this is not something that the task force could afford to do. They felt there really needed to be a direct tie to the task force goals in order for funding to be provided. Just being a "sponsor" of the Opera house in general was not specific enough.

**Task force t-shirts-**The leadership team discussed the creation of Task force t-shirts to be given out in time for Community Day (May 10<sup>th</sup>) to show our presence at the event. Volunteers running the booth and handing out our community day survey could wear the shirts. The t-shirts could also be sold at a low cost or given out at future events. The group agreed that they would like the t-shirts to highlight three of our big accomplishments-the K9 program "Max", the prescription take back box, and our FYI group at the high school.

**Bow Wow Ball update-** The location of the Bow-Wow Ball has been finalized for Mojalaki Country Club here in Franklin. Mojalaki has agreed to give us a greatly discounted rate. Mojalaki opens in May and so May 17<sup>th</sup> has been chosen (to avoid community day & prom activities). Tim Martin, DJ from 94.1, has offered to volunteer his services for this event. Tim is very excited about the K9 Program at the Franklin police dept. We will be collecting items for a silent auction and ask that all leadership members reach out to your contacts between now and the May leadership meeting to seek donations.

**April's Task force meeting agenda-** Sgt. Frost has agreed to be our guest at next week's regular task force meeting. He has offered to lead us through a problem statement. We discussed Marijuana and synthetics as a possible focus for the discussion. In addition, we will be seeking consensus support from the task force for the Working Dog Grant application. The working dog grant has been awarded to the police department for the purchase of our K9-Max. However, one of the requirements of the grant is that it be reviewed by an advisory board. Since the task force raised the matching grant

funds and has been active in the process it seemed logical to have the group perform the function of the advisory board vs. creating a new board.

#### **Approval of Coalition Guideline Changes-**

Leadership members reviewed the highlighted changes and felt that the language proposed this evening didn't quite fit the discussion. The appointment of members was proposed to be timed to coincide with inauguration of the Mayor because that is when the other various city appointments are also made. Brandy/Elizabeth will adjust the language for next week's regular task force meeting.

#### **YRBS Update-**

Brandy stated the YRBS at the Franklin High School is complete and the middle school should be finished tomorrow. The surveys will be in the mail tomorrow and we will expect results in 6-8 weeks. These results will be used at our second lunch and learn on the topic of the YRBS. This first lunch and learn is an overview of the YRBS survey itself and how it is used. The second lunch and learn planned for late summer/early September (when the teachers are back in school)-will use our local statistics and look at trends.

**Community Survey-** Katy Shea had sent an email asking for feedback on finalizing the upcoming Community day survey. She is recommending we administer a paper survey as we have done the past two years. This data collection method allows us to meet our goal of collecting data from Franklin/Hill families at the same event every year. She also feels by administering the survey in paper we are able to engage community members around the work of the task force furthering our outreach efforts. We are also planning to use high school students to assist in the process of collecting surveys. The leadership members agreed with this approach. Community day is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Teen Institute-** Melissa Rizzo has coordinated a visit from Teen Institute on April 18<sup>th</sup> to hopefully encourage more applications to Teen Institute this year.

**Task force coordinator position-** Brandy let the leadership team know of her decision to step down from her position. Brandy had recently met with Elizabeth & Melissa to let them know that she has decided to step down from her position so that she can spend more time at her café (Ralph & Jo's). Originally when taking the position she had planned to hire someone to fill in for her at the café. That did not happen and her business continued to grow. She had been working seven days a week between the task force and the café and felt that she needed to devote more of her time to her business. She told the leadership team that she offered to fill in during the transition time (on a part time basis)-especially during the month of May to help with all the events we have planned. She also told the group that she really enjoyed her work with the task force and would remain involved as a volunteer in the future. Everyone wished her well and thanked her for her time and work while on the task force. The group especially thanked her for agreeing to provide support during our transition to a new coordinator.

Meeting adjourned just after 7:00pm

Submitted by Elizabeth Dragon