

Town of East Haven, CT  
Youth Services Commission Minutes  
September 14, 2011; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven  
CT; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Rob Fucci, Emily Kuzma

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith, Ivette Ruiz

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the June 8, 2011 Minutes

Commissioner D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the June 8, 2011 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner Mike D'Amato made a **Motion** to accept June 8, 2011 minutes as read. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mary Varunes.

Agenda Item- Teen Program Update-

Mr. Petrucelli updated the commission on the great success of the Summer Art and Video Club programs. The art program ran on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 1:00-4:00 with the help of Commissioner Cindy Recinos and EHHS students Rebecca Womble, Rose Maldonado and Melissa Demayo. The students worked on table drawings, canvas and wall murals. The canvas art work will be on display in the front foyer of Town Hall. East Haven Patch did an interview and took pictures of the Summer Art/Video program. The Video club was held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:30 with the help of East Haven resident Zachary Laudano. There were between 12-20 youth that attended these programs. Mr. Petrucelli is looking forward to continuing these programs over their school vacation breaks.

Mr. Petrucelli discussed the July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 fiscal year report for the Teen Center program. Attendance increased by 30% from last year with almost 1300 teens attending the Teen Center events. Revenue increased by 36% and was just a little less than \$4,000.00. This revenue is returned to the Town. Expenses were approximately \$13,000.00 under the Teen Center Line item of \$15,000.00. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that the Teen Center had 15 events; this number is the same as in previous years. Commission Licata asked Mr. Petrucelli if the Teen Center would start the year off with a Halloween themed event. Mr. Petrucelli is working on a schedule for this upcoming year. He would like to add many different events. Bowling, a video game trailer night, a movie night and a block party drive-in night were a few that he mentioned. There will again be separate nights for the sixth graders. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that Big Prints will be printing Tee-shirts for the Teen Center that were chosen from last year's tee shirt contest. Commissioner Licata asked what we would sell the shirts for and perhaps we could have a special admission package price that would include a Teen Center tee-shirt to each student that was interested in one.

#### Agenda Item-Education Works Consulting Services- Ivette Ruiz-

Mr. Petrucelli introduced Guest speaker Ivette Ruiz to the commission. Mrs. Christine Sanford referred Ms. Ruiz to Mr. Petrucelli with the teen center in mind. He asked if each commissioner could take a moment to introduce themselves to Ms. Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz is a National Lecturer, Senior Diversity and Youth Trainer; she has over 20 years of professional training and coaching/mentoring experience. Mr. Petrucelli and the commission would like to have Ms. Ruiz speak with both the students and parents on different topics. Ms. Ruiz offers many different topics such as Sexting & Cyber-Bullying and Positive Decision Making are just a few. The commissioners will be getting back to Mr. Petrucelli and Ms. Ruiz on the topics that would like to offer to the community. Mr. Petrucelli would like to use some of the AT&T grant monies to host these trainings. Seminars could be held both at the schools and the senior center. The trainings could run anywhere from a half day to a full day. Commissioner Varunes mentioned she would like to see a support group for suicide support. Ms. Ruiz said that she likes to work in smaller groups 20-25, with consideration given to age, race, gender and grade.

Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco would like to have a Safety group on Social networking training for adults. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco also feels parents need to be educated as well. Commissioner Recinos would like to have trainings on bullying and body image. She would like this training to be held at the High School instead of the Senior Center. Another training commissioner Recinos would like is underage pregnancy. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco would like to have a Positive Decision Making training for high school students. Ms. Ruiz would like to work with students on coming up with different names for trainings. Commissioner Recinos said that these workshops were was one of the best ideas she has heard in a long time.

Discussion about old prescription drugs in family homes has become a hot topic. There will be a National Take-Back day held for old prescription drugs. This is on Saturday, November 12, 2011. More and more students are getting their hands on old prescriptions and taking them to school. The Youth Service Commission had discussed an event like this in the past possibly using one of the fire houses to host. More discussion on this event will be held at the October YS Commission meeting.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report-

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco will be working on holding a mixer event for high school students.

Agenda Item-To consider and act upon any matter brought before the Commission-

None

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M. was made by Cindy Recinos, Seconded by CJ Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith  
Recording Secretary