

Town of East Haven, CT  
Youth Services Commission Minutes  
December 8, 2010; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven  
CT; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Rob Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Cindy Recinos, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Licata

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the November 10, 2010 Minutes

Commissioner D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the November 10, 2010 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner Mary Varunes made a **Motion** to accept November 10, 2010 minutes as read. Seconded by Commissioner Rob Fucci.

Agenda Item- Teen Center Program

Discussion on revised December Teen Center schedule. The next Teen Center event will be on December 10. The December 17 event will be rescheduled because of the conflict with the Holiday Rock fund raiser for the Teen Center at East Haven High School on the same night. Tickets for this event were distributed to all Commissioners in attendance. Cost is \$5.00 per ticket. Volunteers for this event are needed.

## Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner Fucci reported the SADD program at East Haven High School is still interested in the Rachel's Challenge program. The Youth Services Commission will be co-sponsoring/co-funding this program with Local Prevention Council grant funds from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Continued discussion on attracting high school aged teens to the Teen Center. The teen Commissioners thought a high school mixer might be of interest. The teen Commissioners will begin to find a DJ for the event and think of possible dates for the mixer. Commissioner Recinos suggested possibly using the YJTV news segment at EHHS to advertise this mixer, underage drinking prevention project or the teen center in general. YJTV news features a video segment that would be great for advertising on. Commissioner Recinos will follow up on this.

Commissioners Fucci and Kuzma volunteered to speak briefly during the band changeovers on the teen center/Youth Service Commission during the December 17 fundraising concert. General discussion on the use/rental of the teen center. The East Haven Town Council is in the process of establishing guidelines for groups to use town property for non town sponsored events. The teen center would fall under these guidelines. Commissioner Recinos suggested the Best Buddies program at EHHS that works with special needs people might want to hold an event at the Teen Center.

## Agenda Item- Other

The next Youth Service Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. At this meeting we will set the 2011 meeting schedule.

The Mayors annual Holiday party is Thursday, December 16 starting at 4:30 at the Town's Senior Center.

The Town Clerks office will be notifying the Mayors Office regarding the expiring terms of all Youth Service Commissioners in February 2011. All attempts will be made to stagger the three year terms going forward.

Commissioners Camera and Varunes discussed the need for more programs where youth can build a sense of connection or belonging to something, such as tutoring programs, support groups or community service opportunities and what the teen center can possibly do in that regard.

Discussion on the need to set a date to start the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at JMMS using the teen center. Perhaps an open house with an invite to parents is a way to introduce both parent and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the teen center. The event would have food, music and information available.

Potential bowling fundraiser with Canine Control needs to be discussed.

Mr. Petrucelli shared with the commission that the AT&T grant for 10,000 to be used at the Teen Center is still on track for funding.

The next Underage Drinking prevention meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2010 from 6:30-7:30 at the Teen Center.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 P.M. was made by Commissioner Emily Kuzma, Seconded by Commissioner Cindy Recinos. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bob Petrucelli*

Bob Petrucelli  
Town of East Haven Youth Services Coordinator