

Town of East Haven, Ct  
Youth Services Commission Minutes  
June 10, 2009;  
Town of East Haven Beach House,  
Cosey Beach Avenue; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Mary Cofrancesco, Chuck Licata

Non-Commissioners present: Paul Cofrancesco, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the May 13, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato asked all Commissioners if they had an opportunity to read the minutes prior to the meeting. Commissioner D'Amato also asked if there were any changes. Commissioner Mike D'Amato made a Motion to accept May 13, 2009 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cindy Recinos.

Agenda Item- Update on Police and Youth Grant Application

Commissioner Mike D'Amato was pleased to inform the Youth Service Commission that the grant was approved on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009. East Haven Police Department was one of eleven towns awarded this grant in the amount of \$ 9000.00 for Play by the Rules Program. The grant is to provide educational sessions on Connecticut laws to middle school students. Without the input of the Youth Services Commission the Town of East Haven would not have received this grant. A press release will be distributed.

### Agenda Item-Update of ETV Project

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco stated the group has recorded a few advertisements to run on ETV to promote the upcoming talent show. A registration form will be provided to all students that are performing in the talent show. This will provide information on the type of talent, as well as what they will perform for the show. The tapings will take place at the ETV Studio.

### Agenda Item-Update on Teen Center Facility

No new information at this time.

### Agenda Item-Discussion of Fall Festival/Prevention Grant Activities

Mr. Petrucelli had asked all commissioners to come up with new ideas for this year Fall Festival in September. Possible activities are a pie tossing contest, dunking booth, rock band video game tournament and dance dance, revolution game tournament. Commissioner Recinos suggested a golden leaf hunt or scavenger hunt. Commissioner Emily Kuzma mentioned a mini pumpkin bash or pumpkin art contest. Commissioner Rob Fucci suggested a slot car racing game. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco suggested a racing game within an obstacle course with the teens tied to bungee cords.

Possible ideas for inclusion in the alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention grant include the After Prom, a series of public service announcements and town wide art project. Commissioner Recinos suggested a luggage/baggage activity to take place. This would be made up of individuals or teams and they would have to answer question regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. If they answer the questions correctly they get to remove a piece of luggage/baggage, if they answer incorrectly then they have to place another piece of luggage/baggage on them. The first team to remove their entire luggage would be the winners. Other possible ideas include drama club type skits or theater performances relating to prevention, family fun days and alternative activities for teens. Commissioner Varunes mentioned activities directed towards young children that promotes decision making and teaching the kids what to do when they are mad or sad. These activities can include older students helping the younger students. Mr. Paul Cofrancesco suggested a scared straight program to educate youth on the

consequences of making decisions. These programs typically feature speakers who have been incarcerated.

#### Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner Cindy Recinos would like to see a Girls group to help teenage girls.

#### Agenda Item-Other

Commissioner Varunes mentioned the Youth Service Bureau, Family Resource Center, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at DC Moore School and the East Haven Garden Club collaborated on a project that included educational sessions on butterflies and planting flowers and shrubs on the Green Way Trail near DC Moore School. Two sixth grade students in Mrs. O'Connell's class designed a brochure regarding butterflies.

Commissioner Varunes expressed concern regarding funding for the Family Resource Centers in the state budget. Currently there is no funding for any of the FRC's statewide in proposed budgets. The FRC is the only program in town offering educational child care services on a sliding scale.

Mr. Cofrancesco stated the support of the town council regarding the teen center program.

Mr. Petrucelli congratulated Commissioner Al Camera on being selected as one of this year Merit Award winners. Commissioner Camera was very excited and humble to have been chosen. All commissioners congratulated Commissioner Camera.

There are no meetings scheduled for July or August.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith  
Recording Secretary