

Town of East Haven, CT
Youth Services Commission Minutes
June 9, 2010; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Rob Fucci, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the May 12, 2010 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the May 12, 2010 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco made a motion to accept May 12, 2010 minutes as read. Seconded by Commissioner Emily Kuzma.

Agenda Item- Local Prevention Council Grant Update

Mr. Petrucelli informed the commission that the town received the check for \$4,245.00 last week. Because of extensive delays at the state level the town is just receiving these grant funds for this fiscal year. Mr. Petrucelli stated that \$2,000.00 was allocated to the Post Prom Committee. Based on the last Youth Service Commission meeting two ideas are included in this grant. The Knights of Columbus hold an underage drinking poster contest throughout the school system and putting the winning artwork onto billboards in town will be investigated. The second idea deals with Commissioner Fucci and Mr. Petrucelli working with the SADD program to provide an assembly style program called Rachel's Challenge. This is a program that was created

and named after the first student that was killed at the Columbine school. The program is based on promises and pledges and can be expanded to include the East Haven community. The fall of 2010 is the timeframe for this project. Mr. Petrucelli stated the new grant application will be released in August for the next fiscal year, with the grant funds to be spent by June 30, 2011. Mr. Petrucelli will email all commissioners over the summer requesting ideas to be included in this grant application. Commissioner Camera shared with the commission a newspaper article about a group of local artists in New Haven working together with youth to dress up store fronts and buildings within the community. These are with mural projects. Commissioner Camera stated he would like to speak with a former student of his that has worked on other murals and other art projects. She would be an asset to the youth of East Haven. He will follow up with her to see if she would be interested in helping out.

Agenda Item-Summer Teen Center Program Update

Mr. Petrucelli wanted to remind all commissioners that June 12, 2010 will be the Teen Center Picnic. The picnic will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the new Teen Center location. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers as well as ribs from the Rib House will be served. There will be a basketball tournament and DJ as well as a local Karate instructor for the kids to enjoy. Mr. Petrucelli stated Adam Christoferson is interested in working with students over the summer at the teen center. Mr. Christoferson would be working on a music project. Commissioner Mary Varunes would like to see a few field trips to Six Flags, and other parks. Commissioner Mary Varunes will be speaking with North Branford's summer camp program coordinator for some ideas and feedback. Commissioner Licata thought that getting together with the Recreation Dept. we could post something in their next flyer to all town residents about the Teen Center and upcoming events. This year East Haven Summer Camp Program will be visiting the New Teen Center once a week so that the students can get familiar with the center and enjoy the new space.

Commissioner Licata would like to see how we can attract High School Students to the Teen Center. Both Commissioners Licata and D'Amato thought that hosting a band night with competitions and a juice bar would possibly draw high school students to the center. Commissioner Licata would also like to see maybe a Casino Night or Poker Night for High School students with no gambling for cash but prizes instead. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco asked if the commission could do fundraising for after school programs and to help with summer programs. Mr. Petrucelli will follow up

with this suggestion. Commissioner Licata spoke with Ralph Schlottman to create a darker space for the dance area at the center. This project will cost approximately \$90.00 to complete. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco would like to see the dance floor completed. There was discussion on painting the floor black with some designs or splashes of different color paint. One suggestion was to use glow in the dark paint.

Agenda Item-Fall Festival Teen Corner

Mr. Petrucelli mentioned to the commission that the Teen Corner will be held on both Friday and Saturday night in September. A few ideas for this year's teen corner are a Karokee contest and Laser Tag. Another idea is a CD mix master night where children can make their own music CD's. The Fall Festival is September 10, 11 and 12 this year.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

None. Commissioner Fucci may have started a Facebook page for the Teen Center but was not present tonight. This will be a page to post ideas and suggestions to.

Agenda Item-Other

Commissioner Camera would like to talk about a plan for the incoming 6th grade student to JMMS this coming year. Plans are being discussed and will be tabled until the next meeting on September 8th, 2010. Mr. Petrucelli thanked all commissioners for their time and support and for having completed their second term.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. was made by CJ Cofrancesco, Seconded by Chuck Licata. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary