

Town of East Haven, CT
Youth Services Commission Minutes
May 9, 2011; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Rob Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Al Camera, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the April 4, 2011 Minutes

Commission Chair Mike D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the April 4, 2011 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco made a **Motion** to accept April 4, 2011 minutes as read. Seconded by Commissioner Emily Kuzma.

Agenda Item-Teen Center Program Update

Bob Petrucelli noted the Art on the Walls project that the students have begun working on. This was done during school vacation and will continue with Mr. Camera and Mrs. Alberino on a regular basis. Commissioner Recinos and Rebecca Womble worked on painting a purple section where they will paint the Teen Center Rules. Once the rules are read by the students they will have a chance to sign the wall. Mr. Petrucelli contacted St. Vincent DePaul's School and will send them the updated schedule of events for the rest of the school year. Commissioner Mike D'Amato and his son Robert worked on installing a new tile floor in both bathrooms at the teen center. Robert D'Amato had worked on this project for community service hours at Notre Dame High School. Commissioner D'Amato and his son

Robert will also work on making some shelves for our storage closet at the center. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that our first spring event had great numbers; approximately 100 youth attended this event. Mr. Miles is still looking to host a movie night on June 10th, 2011. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that the May 6th event for the sixth graders was to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the JMMS play. Mr. Petrucelli is still receiving many phone calls from parents wanting to know when the next sixth grade event will take place. Mr. Petrucelli asked the commission to please check there schedules and set a date for the next sixth grade event. A schedule of events is as follows including the rescheduled 6th grade event now on May 20:

May 20th 6th graders, May 27th 7th and 8th grade students, June 3rd 6th grade students, and June 11th 2011 7th and 8th grade year end picnic.

Agenda Item-AT&T Grant Discussion

Discussion on how to expand the teen center program with the \$10,000.00 AT&T grant money. Mr. Petrucelli suggested two areas, equipment and expanding the center hours as possibilities. Commissioner Varunes would like to see Laptops and wireless internet for students; she would also like to have some support groups for students, bullying and cyber bullying as well as groups talking to students about relationships. Commissioner Fucci and Kuzma spoke about theatre/role play situations with questions to follow- a similar event was held at the high school and was very successful. An organization out of the greater Hartford area sponsored this event. Mr. Petrucelli will follow up on this idea.

Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco spoke to the commission about a Boy Scout Eagle project that an East Haven student would like to do for the teen center. Discussion about planning and receiving donations to build a stage at the center was discussed. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco also mentioned that his dad works for an audio/video store and could help with some equipment purchases. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco and Mr. Petrucelli would like to purchase a Popcorn machine for the teen center. Discussion on about purchasing a microwave, refrigerator, lights for the dance area and new game tables. The teen center also needs additional electrical outlets installed.

Agenda Item- Teen Commissioners Report

None

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

Commissioner Mike D'Amato shared with the commission a letter that he drafted to the Old High School Committee, he will check with the Mayor's Office to see who to address this letter to. This letter featured the need for finding a permanent home for the Teen Center. The Commissioners thought the letter was very well written. The Youth Service Commission looks forward to hearing back from the Old East Haven High School Committee.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 P.M. was made by CJ Cofrancesco, Seconded by Rob Fucci. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary