

Town of East Haven, CT
Youth Services Commission Minutes
September 1, 2010; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven
CT; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Chuck Licata called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Rob Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Al Camera, Mike D'Amato, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: Peter Lynch, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the June 9, 2010 Minutes

Commissioner Chuck Licata asked if there were any changes to the June 9, 2010 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco made a **Motion** to accept June 9, 2010 minutes as read. Seconded by Commissioner Mary Varunes.

Agenda Item- Fall Festival-Teen Corner

Mr. Petrucelli thanked Mr. Clem Laurello for all his generosity in donating to both the Teen Center and Fall Festival Teen Corner. Mr. Laurello is again sponsoring the Teen Corner at the Fall Festival. Mr. Petrucelli stated there would be an inflated Sportplex that the teens would be able to use Friday night at the Teen Corner. This 50 x 55 arena can accommodate volleyball, basketball and baseball games. Contests and tournaments can be held with prizes awarded. Mr. Petrucelli noted that there would be a fee charged for this activity and the Laser Tag inflatable, which is a 40 x 25 inflated area that has obstacles, hide aways and maze like corridors on Saturday evening. All proceeds from both go to the Fall Festival Committee. Commissioner Licata would like to discuss how the commission could set up a new line item for revenue for the Teen Center. Commissioner Licata suggested this item be requested to be placed on the Town Council agenda for October. Mr. Petrucelli will follow up with the finance department and town council. Mr. Petrucelli met with Dan McKercher from the Trolley Museum Haunted Isle, to discuss the possibility of having some Face Painting contest, Jello brain

eating contest, and a Zombie walk. Commissioners Licata and Varunes would like to see a jar for donations for the New Teen Center. Some suggestions were a jar filled with skittles to guess how many are inside. This raffle would be \$ 1.00 a guess and the winner would receive a gift card. This would be sponsored by the Youth Service Commission. Commissioner Licata would like to see different games for the Teen Corner one suggestion was the game Minute to Win It. Commissioners Fucci, and Kuzma will go on line and get the instructions for this game. All games played would have prizes for children. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco suggested stacking cups as another choice for a game. Other activities will include a Gold Leaf Scavenger hunt and Master Ross from the Shaolin Academy.

Agenda Item- Teen Center Program

DJ Ralph Schlotman who is also employed by Goody's Hardware has received some supplies to have a black curtain made to provide a darker and private space for the dance area at the new Teen Center. It is hopeful that this project will be completed before the first scheduled event. Mr. Petrucelli discussed with the Commission purchasing a sign for the New Teen Center. The commission would like to have a 3x8 sign to be displayed in the East Haven colors of Blue and Gold as well as the Yellowjacket. The new sign would read "East Haven Teen Corner". Mr. Petrucelli shared with the commission that East Haven Resident Keith Bouve would like to donate his time to build a stage at the Teen Center. Mr. Bouve is attempting to host a music fest on the Town Green on Friday October 1, 2010 from 5:30-9:30 there will be a few bands that will be playing on the green all donations will benefit the East Haven Teen Center. Mr. Bouve would also like to help attract High School students to the Teen Center. Mr. Petrucelli spoke to the commission regarding the 6th graders that will now be attending JMMS. The commission would like to see the 6th graders have an introduction to the Teen Center on a special night for 6th grade students only. This will help them get familiar with the center and enjoy a night of special activities and a DJ. Discussion about a possible Thursday night from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Mr. Petrucelli will work together with Kelly Smith on a schedule for this upcoming school year.

Agenda Item-Underage Drinking Prevention Program

Mr. Petrucelli continues to work with the Connection Inc. and consultant John Daviu regarding the strategic plan for East Haven. Commissioner Varunes discussed the incident regarding a student that was drinking behind Tuttle School and had become ill from alcohol poisoning. Commissioner Mary Varunes would like to see more enforcement and compliance checks

in town. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that this is a three year project. Several commissioners mentioned that they have seen Branford in TV commercial talking about underage drinking and would like to see this for East Haven. Mr. Lynch mentioned the use of Facebook for posts relating to the Fall Festival Teen Corner and a schedule for the New Teen Center events. Commissioner Rob Fucci to set up Facebook page and posts.

Agenda Item-Other

Commissioner Licata asked if others received an email from the Mayors office regarding a new website called Patch.com. This is a project that the Commission might use in addition to Facebook.

Mr. Petrucelli thanked Commissioner Camera and Mrs. Alberino for all of their efforts in the first summer art program held at the Teen Center. Former JMMS student Jackie Roche led the participants through the steps in illustrating a comic or children's book. Framed artwork from each teen is on display in town hall. A photo with Mayor April Capone Almon will be taken soon.

Mr. Lynch, new Executive Director of East Haven Counseling and Community Services thanked the commissioners for all their efforts. Mr. Lynch spoke about having some of his staff attending different programs that the Youth Service Bureau. He would also like his staff to be involved with the community and different school events. Mr. Lynch is proud to be a part of this and looking forward to becoming more involved.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M. was made by CJ Cofrancesco, Seconded by Emily Kuzma. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary