

Town of East Haven, Ct
Youth Services Commission Minutes
February 11, 2009; 7:00PM

Town of East Haven Beach House, Cosey Beach Avenue;

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 Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Robert Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos

Commissioners Absent: Mary Varunes

Non-Commissioners present: Larry Doyle, Bob Petrucelli, Charla Puccino, Cindy Puccino and Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the January 14, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato sent an e-mail to all commissioners asking them to review the previous month's minutes prior to the meeting in order to save time. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco noted that there was a misspelling of her last name in the January 14, 2009 minutes. Mike D'Amato made a MOTION to accept the amended minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Rob Fucci was unable to attend the January 14, 2009 Commission meeting and therefore did not have anything to report at this time. Commissioner Emily Kuzma stated that the word is getting out at the middle school regarding the ETV program as well as the Guitar Hero event scheduled for February 13, 2009 at the Senior Center. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco designed a flyer to distribute

to the 7th and 8th grade students at the East Haven Academy. He will be presenting both events to his classmates. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco mentioned that we need to communicate better to be able to get the information out to all students in East Haven schools.

Agenda Item- Discussion of YSB/Commission Mission Statement

Bob Petrucelli shared with the commission a draft copy of a mission statement that he is still working on. Mr. Petrucelli is working off of the mission statements that have been collected from the commissioners that focused on community based services/programs, personal growth, self esteem, pride, respect, health, community, courage, sense of accomplishment and personal characteristics. Mr. Petrucelli shared with the commissioners that he likes the quote used by Commissioner Cindy Recinos "We can make a difference". Mr. Petrucelli asked that if there are any suggestions or changes to the latest draft of the mission statement to please e-mail them to him.

Agenda Item-Discussion of February 13, 2009 Event

A general discussion about planning and organizing Friday February 13th event. Mr. Petrucelli purchased 4 sets of gift card passes to the movies to be used as raffle prizes. A check-in/sign-in table will be set up to greet students. Sign-up sheets to enter into the tournament will be posted for students. A set of rules will also be posted for the students to read. There will be a minimum time slot for each student to perform a song. The band will start approximately at 9:00 p.m. Family members from the band are welcome to attend the event. The Teen Center rules will be used. Staff from the Teen Center as well as the YSB Commission will chaperone this event. Commissioner's Chuck Licata and Mike D'Amato will be arriving early to set up a large screen to view the Guitar Hero tournament. Commissioner D'Amato will also provide DJ services. The "Up Against It" band from the JMMS will perform. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco stated that it is extremely important to communicate to all the East Haven students that attend different schools. ETV was mentioned as a source to advertise these events to the town residents. Mike D'Amato will introduce the YSB commissioners to all in attendance.

Agenda Item-Discussion of ETV Project

Mr. Petrucelli handed out copies of the "New Producers" article and addition in the East Haven Courier for the ETV project. A meeting on February 17th 2009 at 7:30 will be held at the ETV studio to further plan. All Youth Service commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioners Emily Kuzma and Cindy Recinos have posted sign-up sheets, and are making daily morning announcements at the middle school. So far they have had a very positive response. JMMS has 15/20 students that are interested. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco will be talking to students and making announcements in the Academy. CJ made a flyer and will meet with Academy Principal Johnson on February 12th to discuss the ETV project. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco thanked Mr. Petrucelli for all his help. Fran Foley mentioned a competition for students to make a video to send to the President of the United States. Fran mentioned that the Cable Advisory was very happy to hear about our program getting started. The Cable Advisory is willing to help. Commissioner Camera stated the JMMS has the ability to receive ETV broadcasts.

Agenda Item-Discussion of Teen Center Facility

Commissioner Licata mentioned that Mike Shaefer and Mayor April Capone-Almon have met to discuss gaining access to this facility. Assistant Director of Administration and Management Ralph Mauro will be looking at the building in the next few weeks. Options include possible tax abatement on only the portion that would be used by the town and a two year contract. Discussion by the Commissioners on having the facility ready for the fall of 2009. Talk about having the community volunteer and get involved including the possibility of painting was mentioned. Mr. Petrucelli increased the proposed Teen Center budget for the upcoming fiscal year to reflect 2 days after school in addition to every other Friday night. Commissioner D'Amato and Bob Petrucelli plan on applying for a Police & Youth grant from the Office of Policy and Management for creative ideas for police to be involved with youth in non enforcement ways. This grant could be up to \$10,000. Commissioner Mike D'Amato shared with the

commissioners a book that has a wide range of information for parents and students on safety and laws. The grant proposal would focus on having police officers discuss this book with youth at the Teen Center. The application for this grant is due by April 8th 2009. Fran Foley asked if this booklet was available in a PDF format to perhaps have on the town's website with a link to the Youth Services web page.

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

Mr. Petrucelli spoke to the commissioners about having a picture of all to be placed into the East Haven Courier. All agreed and welcomed the idea with notification.

Cindy Puccino and Charla Puccino asked what the money from the admission to the Teen Center events was spent on. Mr. Petrucelli said to help off-set the costs of food, staff, water and staff time. Mrs. Cindy Puccino thought it would be a good idea to have the commissioners has their picture taken in front of the new Teen Center. The use of ETV cameras to document the progress on the possible new teen center facility for town residents to view was discussed.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. was made by Emily Kuzma; seconded by CJ Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary