

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
April 11, 2012; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Chairperson Al Camera called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Emily Kuzma, Dominic Milano, Mary Varunes, Ed Wajdowicz, Bianca Pappacoda .

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith.

Mr. Petrucelli and the Youth Service Commission welcomed Dominic Milano in his new role as commissioner. Mr. Petrucelli distributed the commission contact list to commissioners Wajdowicz and Milano for their information. An updated list will be distributed.

Agenda Item-To consider and approve the March 14, 2012 minutes

A Motion to accept the March 14, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Mary Varunes, seconded by CJ Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item-Local Prevention Council Grant

The post prom committee has been in contact with Mr. Petrucelli regarding the \$2,500.00 of the \$ 4,245.00 Local Prevention Council Grant money designated by the YS Commission for their use. This money is used to help provide a safe and substance free environment for the high school students after the prom.

a. Drug Take Back Update-

Mr. Petrucelli has spoken with the East Shore Health District regarding the proper method of disposing of any unused non-narcotics. Any unused prescriptions that residents drop off must be disposed of in a safe way.

Mr. Petrucelli will be checking with the two local hospitals to see if they have any ideas or suggestions. Mr. Petrucelli will check with Mary Cofrancesco who works at Yale.

Commissioner Camera asked if this is something that we might need to set a date for he also asked if this was something that could take place before the end of the school year. Mr. Petrucelli will set a date once he has a safe and proper method of disposing of non narcotics collected. This event would be held at one of the Fire Stations in town and on a Saturday.

Agenda Item- Teen Center Program-

a. Lease Update-

Mr. Petrucelli reported to the commission that there is still no official news yet on the Teen Center. Hobby Lobby is still working with Mike Schaffer on the possibility of leasing space. Town Fair Tire as well as CALABRO Cheese are looking into the possibility of expanding into the old Apizza Grand building that the town owns.

Commissioner Milano asked if there was any space on the other side of Frontage Road that Mike Schaffer owned that the town would consider for the Teen Center. Commissioner Milano also mentioned that there is a lot of empty space in the North end of town, possibly the old Food Mart plaza. Mr. Petrucelli said he would check again with Mike Schaffer but believes that all of his rental space is leased at this time.

Commissioner Ed Wajdowicz mentioned that the old Fuchs's oil building is still empty and could possibly be a good place for the Teen Center.

Commissioner Al Camera asked if there was any news on 200 Tyler Street. Discussion about how much space would be needed to make the Teen Center work. Mr. Petrucelli said that 3,500 sq. ft would work. We currently have 5,000 sq. feet. Commissioner Milano asked what other programs going on at the Teen Center facility. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that in years passed they offered a summer art and video game programs with plans to add a theatre program this summer. The Teen Center is also used for parent education programs and the meetings of the East Haven Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking.

b. Bowling Night-April 13, 2012

Circle Lanes bowling event will be on April 13, 2012, the price for this event is \$8.00 a student. The cost to the students is will be \$5.00. The Teen Center will be paying the difference.

c. Field Trip-Year End Event-

Mr. Petrucelli would like to schedule a year end field trip, discussion about the possibility of Laser Tag at the North Branford Sports Complex with approximately 55-65 students attending. Sign-ups would be on a first come bases.

Commissioner Bianca Pappacoda arrived at 7:30.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report-

Commissioner Emily Kuzma is working on putting some Minute to Win it ideas in place for the year end event. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that the Girl Scouts want to host a Spa night for the girls. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco would like to get all teen commissioners together to discuss new ideas. He would like to be able to talk to students at the schools to get some opinions on what that might like. Commissioner Mary Varunes suggested that we really need to find out what appeals to the middle school students. Again, discussion about mixing it up, changes to the events every few weeks. Commissioner Bianca Pappacoda said that she has noticed numbers are down because if one friend does not want to go they all stick together and don't attend. Commissioner Dominic Milano suggested a survey to be put together and distribute to students in school with some ideas as to what they might like to do for a year end event. (Paintball, Wiffle Ball Tournament, Laser Tag, are just a few ideas) Commissioner Emily Kuzma suggested ZUMBA or Battle of the Bands.

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

Mr. Petrucelli discussed a summer food program offered by the Connecticut State Department of Education. Breakfast and/or lunches are provided with no questions asked. It is a great program and idea. Commissioner Milano mentioned that he has been seeing commercials on television relating to

summer nutrition. Commissioner Dominic Milano thought that if the Teen Center had its own space we could tie this program into it.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary