

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
October 8, 2014; Teen Center, 200 Tyler Street, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Chairperson Al Camera called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, Amanda Hopkins, Chuck Licata, Michele Lucatino, Adam Perrotti, Mary Varunes, Ed Wajdowicz.

Commissioners Absent: Bianca Pappacoda, CJ Cofrancesco

Non-Commissioners present: Melissa DeMayo, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith.

Agenda Item-To consider and approve the June 11, 2014 minutes

Chairperson Camera asked if there were any changes to the June 11, 2014 minutes. A Motion to accept the June 11, 2014 minutes as written was made by Commissioner Wajdowicz, seconded by Commissioner Varunes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Camera welcomed everyone back.

Agenda Item Summer Art program update and planning for additional art programs-

Mr. Petrucelli introduced Melissa DeMayo to the commission. Ms. DeMayo has been involved with the summer Art program for the past two years. She is looking forward to continuing the Summer Art program by opening it up to students at the teen center throughout the year. 15-20 students participated in the summer art program and worked on numerous group and individual art projects. These included a chair decorating project and banner project. Both students and parents expressed an interest in continuing the art program.

After discussion, the new art program at the teen center will be to start two nights a month on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Teen Center. The dates are: November 5th, November 19th, December 3rd and December 17th.

Potential projects can include a “Family Tree Project.” Which is painting a big tree with no leaves, and have the students make personalized leaves for it. Ms. DeMayo distributed a list of her many ideas for the 2014-2015 Art Program. Commissioner Hopkins and Varunes will also be working on this project with Ms. DeMayo . Commissioner Hopkins mentioned that they would work on seasonal art projects, with the possibility of a hosting a Craft Fair at the teen center. Commissioner Licata would follow up with Hobby Lobby and other merchants on possibly having items donated. Commissioner Hopkins would also check with potential donors. Open discussion about having other art teachers or local visiting artist in the area joining the program.

This program would be open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the community.

Agenda Item-Teen Center discussion and schedule-

Commissioner Camera mentioned that there is a need for structure at the teen center events. Commissioner Lucatino asked if the teen center could host events on another night besides Friday's, as we seem to lose students to football games, basketball games, and the open skate at the rink-the answer is yes- events do not have to be on Friday nights. Commissioner Lucatino also would like to see if we could advertise through the school announcements, power school, and connect Ed for parents to learn more about the teen center program and events. Commissioner Lucatino volunteered to create a teen center Facebook page.

Commissioner Licata suggested Wiggio.com; this is a free way to have emails go out to parents. Commissioner Lucatino will be looking into this as well as sending out a message to the parents that participate with the PTC. Mr. Petrucelli will follow up with JMMS Principal Laura Lynn to see about advertising through the school. Commissioner Hopkins will be making flyers to promote and advertise teen center events.

Open discussion about hosting the 1st teen center event on October 30th from 7-9p.m this event would be a Halloween event for the students, with prizes awarded for scariest, funniest, and the most original costume. This event will be open to all grades.

Agenda Item- Teen Commissioners Report-

None at this time.

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

Mr. Petrucelli updated the commission on the fall Festival and what a great success it was this year.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:01p.m. was made by Commissioner Wajdowicz, Seconded by Commissioner Perrotti Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary