

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
February 8, 2012; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Chairperson Al Camera called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Bianca Pappacoda, Cindy Recinos, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: None

Non-Commissioners present: Mary Cofrancesco, Ed Wajdowicz, Kelly Smith, Bob Petrucelli

Mr. Petrucelli along with the Youth Service Commission welcomed Bianca Pappacoda as the new Youth Commissioner. Bianca is an 8th grade student at the East Haven Academy. She will be replacing Commissioner Rob Fucci. Commissioner Pappacoda has been appointed to a three year term which will expire on February 1, 2015. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco's term expired on February 1, 2012. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco sent a letter to Mayor Maturo asking to be re-appointed for another term. Mayor Maturo requests that each commission be made up of only one member per family.

Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco has resigned. CJ Cofrancesco has been appointed to serve the remainder of Mary Cofrancesco term which will expire on February 1, 2013. Commissioner Emily Kuzma's term expired on February 1, 2012. She has been re-appointed for another 3 year term expiring on February 1, 2015.

Mr. Petrucelli informed the commission that we are still looking for two more adults at this time. Adults were being chosen by the Mayor's office.

Mr. Ed Wajdowicz has presented a letter of interest to the commission, which will be forwarded to the Mayor Maturo.

Agenda Item-To Consider and Approve the January 11, 2012 Minutes

Commissioner Camera asked if there were any changes to the January 11, 2012 minutes. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco was elected vice-chair of the commission not co-chair. No other additions or corrections. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco made a motion to accept these minutes with the one change. Commissioner Licata seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item- Teen Center Program

a.) Movie Nite February 17, 2012:

Commissioner Cindy Recinos spoke to the commissioners about movie night scheduled for February 17, 2012. At the last 6th grade teen center Commissioner Recinos and chaperone Kelly Smith went around to teens asking them for some suggestions on a movie that they would like to see. After much discussion the movie Happy Gilmore, rated PG, will be shown. The teen who suggested this movie will receive a ten dollar gift certificate. Discussion about attendance for movie night. Approximately 75-100 students will be welcome to attend this event. It will be opened to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie will start at 7:30 prompt. Pizza and refreshments will be served during the intermission. The commission thought that a flyer should go home to parents as well as an announcement in school. Seating was also discussed. Each teen will B.Y.O.B. Bring your own blanket, and sit on the floor or B.Y.B.C. Bring your own chair of choice. Teen commissioners will also be attending this event to help chaperones, teen commissioners will provide popcorn, and will be selling candy at this event. Mr. Wajdowicz will bring an 8 foot screen.

b.) Ivette Ruiz Program Update:

Mr. Petrucelli has two dates for Ivette Ruiz to host a creative and interactive workshop. Ms. Ruiz will talk to students on two different topics, culture/race. It will run about 45 minutes, and will be held at the teen center on April 13th, and April 27th. Commission Camera asked how we will be promoting this event. And also thought it might be good idea to let students know in advance that this will be taken place at the teen center along side their regular scheduled activities.

c.) Lefevre Scholarship Art Projects:

Commissioner Camera spoke to the commission about the Lefevre Art Scholarship. Commission Camera was a recipient of this scholarship in the past. He spoke to the commission about Mr. Lafave and his tragic death. His family has established a scholarship program in his honor. They are looking for high school students that are involved in art programs. Some suggestions were having students attended art courses or programs at the teen center. These programs could be after school or in the evening. Commissioner Camera asked the teen commissioners to spread the word. This could also include the films and theatre students. Commissioner Recinos and the other EHHS students who organized last summer's art program at the teen center are interested.

d.) Arts Commission Collaborations:

Mr. Petrucelli has spoken to the Arts commission they would like to use the teen center to host a summer theatre show. Adults would be working on a play. Fred Marrotti and his daughter would also like to host a concert at the teen center.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco asked if there were any plans to use the teen center over the February school vacation. Commissioner Recinos, Rose Maldonaldo and Rebecca Womble are planning to host an art project over a school vacation. Commissioner Recinos mentioned the possibility of making a sculpture. Commissioner Recinos also mentioned the possibility of having a splatter art project. Commissioner Recinos asked the commission and Mr. Petrucelli if it was possible to decorate outside of the teen center building. Mr. Petrucelli will get back to the commission after speaking to Mr. Schaffer who owns the building. If this is possible it would be a great spring project for the teens to work on. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco asked if the commission could host a bowling lock down night at Circle Lanes over the school break. Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco and Emily Kuzma would like to promote the teen center more. The possibilities of flyers being place in local businesses or on ETV were a few ideas. Commissioner Bianca Pappacoda was concerned that the 7th and 8th graders are not as close as in years past. Commissioner Pappacoda said that they don't share the same

bond. Commissioner Camera stated that this year's 7th grade class is very involved in sports, and that several students are involved in more than one sport. Commissioner Camera is still feeling that parents as well as the public are not fully aware of the teen center and what it offers to students. Commissioner Mary Varnues would like to advertise at school fairs or on ETV to the town residents.

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

None at this time.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:14P.M. Was made by Commissioner Emily Kuzma, Seconded by Commissioner Cindy Recinos, Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary