

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
March 14, 2012; Teen Center, 78 Frontage Road, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Youth Services Commissioner Chairperson Al Camera called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Mary Varunes, Ed Wajdowicz.

Commissioners Absent: Bianca Pappacoda, Cindy Recinos

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

Mr. Petrucelli and the Youth Service Commission welcomed Ed Wajdowicz in his new role as commissioner.

Mr. Petrucelli handed out an updated list of commission members from the Town of East Haven's website. He went over their terms and mentioned that the commission still has an open position for an adult commissioner. Mary Cofrancesco stated that she would still be interested in filling that position. Mary Cofrancesco will write a letter to Mayor Maturo asking for his reconsideration again in filling this vacancy. Mary Cofrancesco asked if the commission would consider writing a letter supporting her re-appointment. All commissioners are in favor of this. Commissioner Mary Varunes also added that commissioner Mary Cofrancesco has been an asset, and played a vital role in the commission.

Agenda Item-To consider and approve the February 8, 2012 minutes-

A Motion to accept the February 8, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Mary Varunes, seconded by Ed Wajdowicz. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item-Teen Center Program-

A.) Lease Update- Mr. Petrucelli reported that a potential renter, Hobby Lobby is looking at the space that is currently being rented by Home Goods as well as the space that the Teen Center is occupying. Home Goods will not be renewing their lease. Home Goods is relocated to another space in Milford, possibly at the end of April. Mike Schaffer owner of the rental space is in negotiations with Hobby Lobby, a super size craft store. The town has a month to month lease on our current location with a 90 day notice. Mr. Petrucelli is hopeful that we can finish out this school year at our current location. There is no exact timeline and nothing is final yet. Commissioner Licata and Mr. Petrucelli met with Director of Administration & Management Arthur DeSorbo with regards to finding another space for the Teen Center. Mr. DeSorbo and the Mayor are in support of the Teen Center Program. Discussion about space that would be required, as well as specific requirements that we might need. Mr. DeSorbo mentioned that he might have some ideas about space in the industrial park area. The Teen Center currently has 5,000 sq. ft. and would consider a space with a minimum of 3,500 sq. ft. Discussion about moving us back to 200 Tyler Street is out of the question as well as the senior center. Mayor Maturo started this program about 12 years ago and in no way would he want to see it come to an end. The Commission is asking if anyone knows of rental space please contact Mr. Petrucelli or Commissioner Licata. Commissioner Wajdowicz mentioned the old Batters Cage located on Bradley Street. Commissioner Licata mentioned the old Metcalf's building in the center of town. Recording Secretary Smith mentioned the possibility of the old Apizza Grand located on Hemingway Ave, which the Town of East Haven owns. Mr. Petrucelli will keep the commission updated.

B.) Movie Night II

Bowling Night has been replaced with another Movie Night. The Circle Lanes has another event scheduled on that evening. The students enjoyed the first movie night and it was a great success. Mr. Petrucelli made up flyers and Commissioner Cindy Recinos and Chaperone Kelly Smith will be going around on Friday night's Teen Center asking the students to pick which movie they would like to see. There are six choices and all are PG rated and newer releases.

Agenda Item-Local Prevention Grant-

Mr. Petrucelli distributed a proposed narrative for the Local Prevention Grant that provides funds each year to Town wide prevention programs. The grant is for 4,245.00. The after prom committee would receive 2,500.00 towards providing a safe and substance free environment for high school students after the prom. The town wide prescription Take Back event which helps provide the community with a safe means of properly disposing of their unused household medications is budgeted for \$745.00. East Haven Partnership to Reduce Youth Drinking (EHPRYD) will co sponsor a series of presentations at EHHS featuring The Looking in Theatre (\$500.00 EHPRYD/\$500.00 LPC) that will focus on underage drinking prevention. Finally, a youth based theatre program that is co-sponsored with the East Haven Arts Commission to provide instruction and rehearsals leading to a series of performances. This is open to all middle school town youth. (\$500.00)

A Motion to accept the Local Prevention Council Grant Budget was made by Commissioner CJ Cofranceso, seconded by Commissioner Chuck Licata. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item- Teen Commissioners Report-

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:11P.M. Was made by Commissioner Emily Kuzma, Seconded by Commissioner CJ Cofranceso, Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary

