

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
March 12, 2014; Teen Center, 200 Tyler Street, East Haven CT;
7:00PM

Chairperson Camera called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Amanda Hopkins, Michele Lucatino, Adam Perrotti, Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Licata, Bianca Pappacoda, Ed Wadowicz.

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

Agenda Item-To consider and approve the January 15, 2014 minutes

Chairperson Commissioner Al Camera asked if there were any changes to the January 15, 2014 minutes. A Motion to accept the January 15, 2014 minutes as written was made by Commissioner Varunes, seconded by Commissioner Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Camera extended a warm welcome to new Commissioner Michele Lucatino.

Agenda Item: Teen Center Program Update

Review Recent Events: January 24, 2014 super bowl tailgate party event went well. Eight teams in the tournament with one team of students played against the staff in the finals and winning.

February 19, 2014 was a movie night event which also went very well. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that Biddy Basketball will be coming to an end in about a week. This would allow the teen center access to the gym.

Mr. Petrucelli updated Commissioner Cofrancesco and the Commission on his question about having an updated summary report regarding the teen center. Mr. Petrucelli discussed the space at the previous location and the number of students in attendance at the former space located in the current Hobby Lobby store. Mr. Petrucelli did a comparison of events. The space that the teen center occupies now is ½ the space of the former teen center. The floor plan was an open floor plan and attracted approximately 75+

students at each event. There were approximately 20 regular students that would attend to play basketball, another 20 students would be female students that enjoyed the dance area. An additional 20 students would be the male students that also enjoyed the dance area. Back at the old high school themed events draw a larger crowd-75 plus. Non themed events draw approximately 40-50 students.

Commissioner Perrotti stated that over the April school vacation volunteers and chaperone Sal Luzzi would be building a 20x20 dance floor. They would also be hanging a flat screen television for students to use for their video game area. Included in this day will be a traditional “spring cleaning” of equipment and furniture.

Teen Center Schedule for the remainder of the school year is as follows:

March 28th, 2014 March Madness Gym Event for all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.

April 4th, 2014 High School Talent Event High School students only.

May 2, 2014 Dance Club Night Event opened to all 7th and 8th grade students.

May 16, 2014 Dance Night/Karaoke/American Idol 6th and 7th grade only. Commission Lucatino suggested the possibility of having student Kenny Araujo attend this event and perform a few songs for the students. Commissioner Michele Lucatino will follow up with Ken Araujo to see if he would be interested.

May 30, 2014 Wiffleball tournament in the Gym 6th, 7th 8th grade students

June 13, 2014 Movie Night/Drive- In Grand Finale YearEnd Cookout Party.

High School Event-April 4, 2014-Mr. Petrucelli informed the commission that Mrs. Harkins, Mrs. Holt and Mr. Piccino are working very hard on this event which will be a talent show type event.

Mr. Petrucelli informed the commission that Principal Matt Espinosa will advertise on the middle school facebook page as well as the school calendar. Commissioner Lucatino will advertise on the PTC website. Commissioner Lucatino suggested having the Connect Ed advertise for the teen center as

well. Commissioner Hopkins suggested having a student make the morning announcements at school regarding the teen center events. The commission thought this was a great idea and suggested that Commissioner Amanda Hopkins and Commissioner Camera discuss the idea with Principal Espinosa.

Teen Commissioners Report-

Commissioner Cofrancesco suggested the Renaming of the teen center and having a contest between JMMS, St. Vincent De Paul, and the Academy. The winner would get a \$ 25.00 gift card of their choice. Deadline for this contest would be April 9, 2014 with the commission voting and announcing the winner at the next scheduled event.

Commissioner Cofrancesco suggested having commissioners Hopkins and Perrotti get involved with a sub committee of middle school students that could meet monthly to help create new ideas for what the students would like to have at the teen center. Commissioner Cofrancesco would like to have a summer art program again this year.

Discussion around advertising and posting photos on Facebook, Instagram, and possible Twitter. Mr. Petrucelli will speak with the town attorney to discuss and get clearance on this subject.

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

None

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:50p.m. was made by Commissioner Cofrancesco, Seconded by Commissioner Hopkins Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary

