

Town of East Haven, CT.
Youth Services Commission Minutes
Special Meeting; September 25, 2013;
Teen Center, 200 Tyler Street, East Haven CT; 7:00PM

Chairperson Al Camera called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Amanda Hopkins, Chuck Licata, Bianca Pappacoda, Adam Perrotti, Mary Varunes,

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Milano

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

Agenda Item-To consider and approve the March 6, 2013 minutes

A Motion to accept the March 6, 2013 minutes was made by Commissioner Cofrancesco, seconded by Commissioner Pappacoda. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wajdowicz arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Agenda Item: Welcome new members, commission overview, meeting schedule 2013

Commissioner Camera addressed how strongly the commissioners feel about the Teen Center and programs it offers. Commissioner Camera also thanked everyone for their time and effort that each member puts into the program. Commissioner Camera stressed that it is extremely important to have communication. That in the event a member can not attend a commission meeting to contact Commissioner Camera, Commissioner Cofrancesco or Mr. Petrucelli as soon as possible to be courteous to all commissioners. Commissioner Camera and Mr. Petrucelli had a brief orientation with the new Commissioners discussing many items including the importance of confidentiality. Commissioner Licata spoke to the new commissioners about how important their input is to their age group that they represent.

Next meetings are as follows:

October 9th, 2013

November 13th, 2013

December 11th, 2013

Agenda Item-Teen Center Program Update

A. Commissioner Hopkins reported on the Summer Art Program. Teens from age 13& up were able to express themselves through art. Different areas were blocked off where students spray painted and created murals on the walls. Former Commissioner Cindy Recinos, Rose Maldonado and Sara Farnsworth and Marianna Martino led this program. The program ran for 5 weeks meeting twice a week with 13- 18 students were in attendance. Mr. Petrucelli thanked Goody's Hardware for their generosity in donating paint in a variety of colors. Students that attended this art program expressed an interest in keeping it going meeting once a month if possible.

B. Mr. Petrucelli stated that a Connecticut based video game Design Company called Plastic Games held a video game testing site at the teen center. There were 10 students that attended this event. The students were not given instructions on the game, but were asked to beta test the game. The company wanted to have the students beta test their thinking computer game software. Plastic Games explained to the students what goes into creating a video game. Plastic Games would like to come back after making changes to the game and get the students reactions.

C. Mr. Petrucelli updated the commissioners on the progress of the juice bar that Mr. Sal Luzzi built for the Teen Center. Mr. Luzzi has completed the bar, and is ready to have it installed. East Haven Rotary Club donated \$200.00 dollars to the Teen Center which Mr. Petrucelli put to good use and purchased tables and bar stools for the lounge area at the Teen Center. Mr. Petrucelli updated the commission on the break in that occurred a few weeks ago at the Teen Center and Biddy Basketball areas. The Teen Center lost its gaming equipment. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that more patrols are occurring since the break-in. Mr. Petrucelli informed the commission that East Haven resident Clem Lorello has donated a new Wii Gaming station for the teen center. Commissioners would like to send thank you notes to Mr. Lorello, and Goody's for their generosity to the Teen Center program.

D. Commissioner Perrotti would like to host a Halloween Costume Dance Party on October 26th, 2013. There would be prizes for the best costume, scariest, funny, people choice, etc. Commissioner Pappacoda thought it would be a good idea to get donations from a few local businesses in town. Froyo, Sugar, Polo Polo, or Game Stop was a few that were mentioned. Teen Commissioners would also like to have a movie night possibly old school drive-in in the courtyard area. A haunted courtyard was also discussed. Discussion about hosting events on Saturday nights on October 26th 2013, November 9th, November 23rd, December 6th and December 20th would go back to Friday nights. A Motion to accept the program schedule and events for a Halloween Night was made by Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco, seconded by Commissioner Ed Wajdowicz. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner Perrotti set up a page on instagram promoting the teen center. Commissioner Licata thought it was a great idea to use it to poll for movie ideas, or a play list for music. Commissioners CJ Cofrancesco and Bianca Pappacoda are interested in possibly changing the name of the Lizard Lounge to “Pit Stop” or “One Way Café” they also want to do some renovations to the lounge area.

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

Mr. Petrucelli recognized Commissioner Cofrancesco who will be soon presented with the 2013 Youth Leader of the Year by the CT Youth Association. There were 110 nominations across the state which was narrowed down to 20 out of 7 regions and then down to two students one female and one male student. Congratulations Commissioner Cofrancesco. There will be a dinner and award ceremony that will take place in Cromwell, CT.

Commissioner Varnues asked how the Fall Festival went this year. Mr. Petrucelli reported that it was a great success. Fees brought in over \$800.00 dollars, and that the Hamster Balls, Video Game trailer, bungee run and the DJ were big hits.

Commissioner Varunes stated that she attended the recent JMMS back to school night to distribute materials relating to the underage drinking prevention effort in town.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. was made by Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco, Seconded by Commissioner Bianca Pappacoda, Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary