

## **YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**

October 5, 2009

### **Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Kristin French, Michelle Grasso, Andy Rosenshine, Oscar Najarian, Rachel Bridge, Kasey Packer, Allison Shea

**WYFS:** John Badenhause, Director  
Doreen Rebh, Administrative Assistant

**ABSENT:** Nancy Tame

**7:35 PM MEETING OPENED/MINUTES REVIEWED**

Michelle called the meeting to order and the September minutes were reviewed. Andy made a motion to accept the minutes, Kristin seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted.

**7:40 PM REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS**

Allison stated that she thought the suggestions listed on the Hot Summer Nights Survey were valid, especially the suggestions for a trip to Canobie Lake Park and the one for a volleyball tournament. All agreed that volleyball seemed to be popular lately and that a tournament would be a good addition to HSN.

Rachel mentioned that Westborough High School had its Homecoming this past weekend and that it was a huge success. All three girls agreed that there's been more school spirit this year. They attributed this partly to the "Game of the Week" program implemented by school administration this September.

**7:50 PM REVISIT OF MENTORING PROCESS**

Andy summarized the earlier mentoring discussion for those who were not able to attend the September meeting. There was discussion on the ways to go about mentoring and how the group would like to structure such a program. When asked what they thought of the idea, the Youth Members agreed that it would be helpful. Allison stated that she thought in regards to the youth members a mentoring program could be kept informal. The girls agreed that they felt comfortable "just asking" if they had any questions. However, they could understand how a more formal mentoring program might be useful for new members to the Youth Commission Board.

Michelle suggested having an orientation for youth members. John mentioned that he's usually setting up in the office at 7:00 on meeting nights and that if there are things on the agenda that the girls have questions about they are welcome to come in early. Michelle made a

suggestion that she, Andy and Kristin might rotate coming at 7:15 for the next 3 months. After discussion, she made a motion that for the next 3 months 1 of the 3 members present would come early to answer questions and do a little orientating. Andy seconded and all were in favor.

Allison suggested it might be helpful for the girls to have an outline of what is usually done each month. John liked the idea of this “annual flow” outline. He also mentioned that he and Doreen discussed having the YFS annual reports listed on the website so that anyone who is interested can go on and see what the office has done for the last decade.

It was decided that Andy would come early for the November meeting and that he would talk about what the Board sees as their primary goal or mission. Michelle agreed to come early in December and talk about activities and programs of Youth and Family Services, and Kristin agreed to come early in January to discuss the budget. Kristin also stated that she would come early for the November and December meetings since the discussions might serve as mentoring for her as well.

**8:20 PM**

#### **DISCUSSION – ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES**

John reported that he’s in the process of applying to Blue Cross/Blue Shield and that he will be meeting soon with the town auditor and town accountant to talk about fiscal checks and balances. He has also been researching sliding fee scales and talked about the model that Burlington has been using since 1996. After researching different models, John stated that the one he likes best is a format which uses a sliding fee scale based on percentages of the federal poverty guidelines.

John also reported that he’s created a questionnaire for current clients asking clients’ income, the number of family members supported by that income, if they have insurance, and why they are seeking counseling services from WYFS. He explained that from the clinical point of view there are several reasons why the counselors would prefer to use a sliding scale rather than bill insurance; it would take a lot less time, it’s a lot less intrusive clinically, and confidentiality would not be compromised. Andy wondered if John could include a breakdown from the questionnaire by the December meeting. He also noted that he didn’t see Youth Diversion listed as a possible revenue source for the office. John agreed to provide the breakdown and also that Youth Diversion would be the most likely source of revenue for WYFS.

**8:40 PM**

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

**NEXT MEETING – 7:30 PM, Monday, November 9, 2009**