

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
September 12, 2011
7:35 PM to 8:35 PM

PRESENT: Michelle Grasso, Andy Rosenshine, Judith Tully, Christine Anthony, Casey Collins, Cameron Mattheson, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Ritika Lahoty and Ali Strand

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:35 PM: MEETING OPENED/ MINUTES REVIEWED

Michelle called the meeting to order and the June minutes were reviewed. Judith made a motion to accept the minutes, Andy seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously. John reported that the Board of Health loaned him a tablet enabling him to bring up documents under discussion at the meeting, since we have gone paperless with the Youth Commission packets.

7:35 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

The Youth Members reported that there was a 9/11 Presentation at the High School on Friday 9/9. Four trees were planted at the school in commemoration of the four locations of the plane crashes.

7:44 PM: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS UPDATE

John and Oscar reported that the program went well. 85 kids participated, with some of them attending several activities. This number is up from last year, The majority of the kids participating were in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

The group discussed adding the cost of running HSN to the department budget next year, since local benefactors like to alternate their list of recipients and funding for the program could dry up. Another possible inclusion in the budget is \$1500 for training.

John reviewed the HSN Financial Report, which showed a net of \$2675 that can be used to start next year's program. This amount was a result of more donations than expected and the cancellation of the final bus trip, due to lack of interest.

The group decided WYFS should send out a press release thanking the public for their support of HSN.

John will speak with Selectman Tim Dodd, Fin. Comm. member Ed Behn and Town Manager Jim Malloy about the possibility of including funding for HSN, as well as money for training in the upcoming WYFS budget. It has been 2+ years since training

was included in the budget. The budget information will be made available on October 15th to all department heads.

8:05 PM: FORBES RENOVATION UPDATE

John and Judith attended the Forbes Building Renovation meeting last spring. They wanted to voice their concerns about the possibility of the WYFS office being relocated to the same building with the Recreation Department, which could compromise the confidentiality needed for the office environment. They reported that the committee in charge of the renovation was very receptive to their concerns. The new plans have the WYFS office on the third floor of the Forbes Municipal Building, in a separate area from the School Administration, with sound-proof rooms, sinks in each counseling room and a separate area the size of the auditorium stage that can be used for the Holiday Store as well as ample storage space.

8:15 PM: JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Job Descriptions were distributed to the Youth Commission members via the online packets. These have all been updated except for the Administrative Assistant's position which didn't need updating.

8:20 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle reminded the group that the Youth Commission still has another opening. Christine Anthony took the three-year slot. Press releases should be sent out to garner interest for the position. Christine suggested putting something in the Virtual Backpacks about the Youth Commission position opening.

Christine said she would send the "Developing Respectful Teams" flyer to youth coaches her family is involved with and knows have not received it.

Andy suggested asking people who get services from WYFS for feedback on what their needs are, and to gain a different viewpoint. John said he would give it some thought as to how to approach the subject, given the confidentiality issues.

It was decided that WYFS would provide flyers to be displayed at the Arts in Common, rather than have a table at the event.

8:30 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, October 24, 7:30 PM