

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
March 14, 2011
7:31 PM to 8:40 PM

PRESENT: Kristin French, Michelle Grasso, Andy Rosenshine, Judith Tully, Ritika Lahoty, Cameron Mattheson, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Rachel Bridge, Kasey Packer and Ali Strand

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:31 PM: MEETING OPENED/ MINUTES REVIEWED

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

7:33 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

The Youth members reported that prom season is coming: Junior Prom – May 14th; Senior Ball – May 20th. The assembly featuring the Rwandan speaker went well. AP exams are coming up, and there will be a “Jam for Sudan” on April 1 at the High School.

7:35 PM: RAISING THE PROFILE OF WYFS

The Westborough Rotary Club is willing to give us booth space at their Spring Festival – April 30 & May 1. There was discussion as to whether or not to have an activity like a raffle, but it was decided that WYFS will give out some sort of healthy snacks, and have available copies of our newsletter and a sampling of our various brochures.

It was decided to “man” the booth on Saturday only (April 30th) in two shifts - 10-1 and 1-4. The tentative schedule is: 10-1: John, Judith, and Michelle; 1-4: Andy, Cameron, Oscar, and Ritika. Kristin will serve as a floater.

It was suggested we display “Babysitter’s job posters” (now on wall outside WYFS office) of the recently graduated babysitter course. We might also play the Westborough TV video of the Depression Screening PSA.

Items to display on table and easel:

- Babysitters’ posters and Sign-up to receive upcoming babysitters course info
- Sign-up to receive HSN info and samples of old HSN programs
- Copies of WYFS newsletter and Sign-up to receive WYFS newsletter
- Mental health brochures
- Buy-a-Bus donation forms and toy bus to collect donations

- Executive summary of Youth Needs Assessment
- Healthy snacks (raisins, power bars, M&Ms)

Who brings what:

- Ritika will check on providing a gazebo-type covering in case of rain.
- Cathy will supply an 8 ft folding table (2 if needed) and tablecloth
- Cathy will supply toy bus as a receptacle for donations for Buy-a-Bus
- Judith will make a WYFS sign/banner for the table.
- Members will bring healthy snacks

The group discussed having a similar booth/display at Arts in Common in October as we will at the Spring Festival.

8:07 PM: WYFS NEWSLETTER

John reported that the next newsletter will come out in April. The group decided that the newsletter should be published every other month. It was suggested that upcoming newsletters feature the staff as well as Youth Commission members, especially the graduating High School seniors. April's newsletter will advertise for volunteers for the HSN Youth Advisory Board to help plan HSN.

8:14 PM: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS UPDATE

WYFS received \$2700.00 from *In Your Shoes*. We have raised \$7500 for HSN so far. The group discussed the possibility that donations may dry up for HSN, and we can't continually rely on the same resources for funding. The group decided we should discuss putting funding for HSN back into the WYFS budget.

8:30 PM: OTHER

John reported that he spoke to Town Counsel about the conflict of interest issue in bringing Dennis Fenton onto the Youth Commission. Town Counsel said there could be the appearance of conflict of interest. John sent Dennis an email relaying the conflict of interest issue and that if Dennis were to join the Youth Commission, WYFS would not be able to send him any referrals. John is awaiting Dennis' response.

Michelle reported that, concerning the letter from the Youth Commission supporting a raise for John, the Personnel Board requested an updated job description. Michelle suggested adding a few items from the strategic plan to the job description. John said he preferred to wait until the next meeting to discuss this issue as an agenda item.

8:40 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM