

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
September 10, 2012
7:35 PM to 8:40 PM

PRESENT: Michelle Grasso, Judith Tully, Christine Anthony, Patricia Ainsleigh, Oscar Najarian, Jack Chuma, Casey Collins, Pranit Lahoty.

ABSENT: Andy Rosenshine and Matt Murch.

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:35 PM: MEETING OPENED

Michelle called the meeting to order. The May and June minutes were reviewed. Patricia made a motion to accept the minutes, Judith seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:37 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

There was a "Welcome Back Dance" (sponsored by the Senior Class) at the High School, with approximately 300 students in attendance. There were a few incidences of intoxicated students. The dance was held in the lobby, where it is assumed adult chaperones can observe the students better than in the gymnasium. The Senior March went well.

7:40 PM: MUNICIPAL MEETING

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, the Municipal Building Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposal whereby the Town Hall offices would move to office-space in the Roche Bros. building and the Town Hall would be sold. The proposal states that the Youth and Family Department would move upstairs to the 3rd floor with the school administration offices. Any available YC members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

7:55 PM: YOUTH MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

Michelle asked the youth members what they would like to get out of the experience of being on the Youth Commission and would they like to create a different format in which the kids contribute to the YC meetings. The youth members all seemed to feel that the current set-up, where the kids report on the recent happenings at the High School, was good for them. Judith pointed out that having the youth members on the YC legitimized the YC, and it was important for the YC members to know what is happening at the school.

8:00 PM: DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3 & 4
(Goal 3: Provide advocacy and educational services regarding issues affecting youth and families in Westborough; Goal 4: Collaborate with schools, town departments and neighboring communities to identify unmet youth needs and offer programs to fill the gap)

It was suggested that a copy of the Depression Screening flyer be sent to the editor of the "Lobby Observer," which is the High School magazine.

The group discussed the issue that students who don't belong to a team sport have a hard time getting time in the school weight room – teams get first priority. Some suggested advocating specific times be set aside for free time at the school gym, or maybe creating a deal with a local fitness club, such as Boston Sports Club, where kids could get a reasonable break in price for use of the gym at particular times. The group decided that this issue needed further discussion and that action steps be created at the next meeting, as well as more discussion of Goal 4.

8:25 PM: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS WRAP-UP

John reported that our HSN coordinator Lizzy Sricharoenchaikit did a great job this summer, along with our volunteer Oscar Najarian. He said it was one of our best years, with over 240 in attendance at the events (100+ individual kids.) There were about 10 responses to the survey (10%) where kids said they particularly liked the trips (and being able to feel independent) and the make your own pizza event at Bertucci's. The Town of Hopkinton's involvement with our events did not work out as the Hopkinton kids didn't want to attend events out of town.

Lizzy is interested in returning as coordinator next year.

8:30 PM: DEPRESSION SCREENING

Our Depression Screening Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 11th. We will have the A-frame sign set up on the front lawn again this year, as it was helpful last year in encouraging people to come in.

John said he would inquire as to a way to get our Depression Screening flyers into the High School to the kids.

8:35 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

At our next YC meeting, we will develop a calendar for the YC meetings.

8:40 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM