

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
 Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
 Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
 45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
November 4, 2013
7:35 PM to 9:05 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Ainsleigh, Jack Chuma, Judith Tully, Corbin Whitaker, Meredith Wolpert.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Oscar Najarian, Gerad Sokol

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
 Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Christine Anthony, Pranit Lahoty, and Andy Rosenshine.

7:35 PM: MEETING OPENED

Judith called the meeting to order. The October 2013 minutes were reviewed. Meredith made a motion to accept the minutes, Corbin seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:37 PM: YOUTH REPORT

The first quarter has ended. The school workload has increased. Meredith reported on upcoming Student Council events: Volunteering at Florence House (babysitting for single parents), leaf raking, Rachel's Table, Senior Center Ball, bocce tournament in Grafton (Special Olympics), and cookie dough fundraiser.

There are problems with online college apps. Jack said he sent emails introducing himself to colleges he was interested in before sending in his application.

The drug dogs were called to the high school on October 30 and police arrested a student on drug charges

7:50 PM: FY2015 BUDGET

John explained the budget process for the benefit of new YC members. For the FY2015 budget (which covers July 2014-June 2015), the Town Manager requested all departments keep level funded expense budgets (same as last year.) The budget is comprised of two parts: salaries/wages and expenses.

Last year, there were two new forms added as part of the budget packet that will help FinComm and the Board of Selectmen better understand the function of each department. The first form asks each department to fill in their responsibilities, accomplishments and goals. The second form asks for a summary overview of the department (salaries/wages, expenses, surveys, activity

breakdown.) John reported there was a typo on the second page of the budget, which he will correct and send to the YC members.

John said he wants to develop a client satisfaction survey.

The group moved to a discussion about the youth brainstorming session that took place this past June which was attended by YC members and staff from the YMCA. They discussed the problem that there aren't many options for activities outside of school for kids who don't want to be around drugs and alcohol. They talked about creating a program, rather than hosting one big event like a dance. This program would offer a variety of activities for a variety of interests in a variety of locations.

The youth members said they want to be involved in the development of this program because adults don't always know what activities kids want to do. The program would also need an adult to oversee things, sign contracts and make arrangements.

John said he and Andy spoke earlier about hiring a person to coordinate activities for high school-age teens. The YFS Dept. has a Youth Activities Coordinator position that now uses 275 hours (of a maximum of 400 hours) for the Hot Summer Nights coordinator. He suggested we put a request in the FY15 budget to use the additional 125 available hours for a coordinator to be hired to organize a high school youth activities program during the school year. Since the Youth Activities Coordinator position carries a maximum of 400 hours, this new position will not increase that total.

Some of the issues the group discussed were:

- Transportation to youth activities.
- Kids like to be spontaneous, so it might be hindrance if they have to sign up for an activity in advance.
- Organizing a variety of locations so things don't get boring

The Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park is a possible place to approach for youth activities.

It was suggested that kids sign a contract before participating so they will know the consequences of showing up to an activity drunk or high.

John said if the budget increase is accepted by the Board of Selectmen, the YC youth members can create a sub-committee of peers to help organize the program. The money would become available on July 1, 2014 for the position, although the coordinator couldn't work at the same time as the HSN coordinator, so the position could start late August/early September 2014.

John said the group should see this as an experiment and to use the next school year to see if it works. We would not be asking the Board of Selectmen for any extra expense money, just salary. If accepted, the YC would need to create a plan, write up a job description and advertise for that position.

Judith made a motion to increase the Youth Activities Coordinator's hours from 275 to 400 for the FY15 budget. Corbin seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously to request the increase in hours for the Youth Activities Coordinator position.

If the request is approved, the YC youth members will start the planning process before putting together a sub-committee.

8:55 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

Judith reminded the group that *In Your Shoes* will hold a Polar Plunge fundraiser on Sunday, December 8, from 12-2 PM. The group agreed to run the concessions for the fundraiser. The YFS office has volunteering and plunging forms available.

The next Youth Commission meeting is our holiday get-together. Members can bring a gift (\$10 maximum) if they wish to participate in the Yankee Swap, as well as some goodies to eat and share. We will meet earlier at 7:00PM.

9:00 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, December 9th 2013 at 7:00 PM