

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
 Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
 Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
 45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
January 12, 2015
7:33 PM to 9:00 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Barton, Arpita Joyce, Jennifer Lencioni, Jorge Nario, Lauren Schiffman, Gerad Sockol, Robert Stout, Judith Tully, Corbin Whitaker

YOUTH COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

Katherine Burbank, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Patricia Ainsleigh, Daniel Moon, Meredith Wolpert

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
 Cathy Cairns, Admin. Asst.
 Stephanie Camille – WYFS Clinical Intern

7:33 PM: MEETING OPENED

Judith called the meeting to order. The December 2014 minutes were reviewed. Jorge made a motion to accept the minutes, Corbin seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:34 PM: YOUTH REPORT

Mid-term exams are beginning. The Student Council has arranged to bring in stress-relief dogs to help students cope with exam-related stress.

7:35 PM: BUDGET FY16

The Town Manager has published his budget recommendations. He has removed the funding for the What's Up Tonight Coordinator (about \$3855.00) but funded the rest of the department for FY16. We can run WUT with money already in the budget. John decided it wasn't worth fighting for the extra money, especially since WUT is taking longer to get off the ground.

We have two articles proposed for the warrant for Town Meeting: 1) to maintain the Revolving Fund and 2) to increase the hours for the Youth Activities Coordinator position from 400 to 500 hours. (This doesn't include funding the extra hours.) John has to meet with the Personnel Board and they must approve it before it goes on the warrant.

In his budget summary, the Town Manager wants to form a committee to evaluate the level of services provided by WYFS to see if those services can be provided by private practices and the non-counseling services by the Rec. Dept. and the Town Library. Any changes

would be to the FY17 budget. He wants to appoint members to this committee. One BofS member says they want to appoint the members. In addition to evaluating WYFS, the Animal Control Officer's position will also be evaluated.

The Town Manager will present the budget to the BofS tomorrow night and John plans to attend that meeting.

The group discussed options for next steps. One suggestion was to invite the Town Manager to a YC meeting so he can see what we do. We have heard from the Library Director who said she will do what she can to support our Dept.

The group decided to form a sub-group to brainstorm for ideas on what to do next. This group can only have four voting members, so as to not have a quorum and no action can be taken.

The Charter Review Committee was sent a letter from the YC stating their preference to: 1) have the WYFS Director continue to report to the YC, who then report to the BofS, and 2) that any WYFS hiring and/or reviews be done by people familiar with the WYFS Dept. and how it operates. The Town Manager has proposed that all dept. heads report to him.

John explained the budget process: the YC and the WYFS Dept. put together a budget and then submit it to the Town Manager.

The Town Manager makes budget recommendations and submits those to the BofS.

The Fin Comm members are appointed by the Town Moderator and their job is to watch over the financial aspects of town government.

Fin Comm then meets with dept. heads and commissions and come up with budget numbers. Fin Comm's numbers are presented at Town Meeting.

In 2008, the previous Town Manager proposed cutting the WYFS budget by a third. Fin Comm disagreed with him and put the rest of the money back into the department's budget and the voters approved the funding. In 2008, the YC went to Fin Comm and explained what the WYFS dept. does.

Judith suggested we speak with our Fin Comm representative, Lisa Blazejewski, to find out more details and to tell her we have concerns. She also suggested that the same committee should not be reviewing both WYFS and Animal Control as they are two very different departments.

Since the BofS now interview all possible commission members, from the Rec. Dept. to WYFS to Council on Aging, they need to know what all departments do. John will now send his monthly and annual reports to the BofS and the Town Manager.

The Town Manager wants recommendations from the evaluation committee (yet to be appointed) for the Fall Town Meeting in October. The group is concerned he wants to dissolve the WYFS Dept. The dissolution of the WYFS Dept. must go through Town Meeting.

Judith, Lauren, Tim and Jenni will meet separately to put together a strategic plan and report back to the YC. Non-voting members are welcome to join them. They will meet on January 26 at 7:30 at Panera.

8:20 PM: VOTER REGISTRATION

Daniel, who was not present at the meeting, asked if we could talk about voter registration at next month's meeting.

Judith asked the youth members to start talking to friends about registering to vote.

8:21 PM: WHAT'S UP TONIGHT?

John reported that the YMCA will make its facility available for free for WUT events, giving them access to Studio 22, the gym and work-out room.

The first event is planned for Friday, January 23. From 6:45-7:15 PM, students will sign in and get a wristband. The event will run until 9:30 PM.

The students need to promote this event.

John will ask the YMCA to send emails to their Westborough families.

Gerad will ask the event be put into the morning announcements.

A reporter from the *Community Advocate* met with the WUT group at their last meeting and interviewed them.

Taylor has a WUT Facebook page ready to launch.

Arpita will contact the class officers to promote it on Facebook.

Flyers should be posted at the library, stores and online local newspapers.

The group decided there needs to be one document going out to the various media outlets, such as Facebook, Yik Yak, Snapshot and Instagram. Someone suggested posting it on the Rec Ball page.

The flyer should mention there will be basketball, weight room, snacks and a movie. There should also be a contact number and email.

When kids sign in at the event, we should collect email addresses and cell numbers for future events.

Cathy will add a WUT webpage on the WYFS website.

Judith suggested there should be a definite plan on how to deal with any problems that should arise at the event.

Arpita will create a flyer and Gerad will email a paragraph promoting the event to the YC members.

8:56 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – February 9 at 7:30 PM.